



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2003

No. 74

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 19, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for 5 minutes.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 459. An act to ensure that a public safety officer who suffers a fatal heart attack or stroke while on duty shall be presumed to have died in the line of duty for purposes of public officer survivor benefits.

S. 535. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

THE FAMILY TIME FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest challenges working men and women face today is balancing the needs of family with demands of work schedules. This conflict may weigh most heavily on women; but all workers, regardless of gender, experience conflict between work and family, watching their child's soccer game or going through the stack of papers on their desk.

To address this problem, I introduced the Family Time Flexibility Act, legislation that would provide hourly workers the option of taking paid time and a half off in lieu of time and a half pay for hours worked overtime. This concept is a very simple one. If workers have to work overtime, they should be allowed to choose how they are compensated, with more money or paid time off.

The editorial page of the Detroit News recently weighed in on this important topic by saying: "Having more flexible hours is among the top wishes of working parents in this country. But an archaic Federal law has become a big impediment to parents and other workers in getting their wish."

Mr. Speaker, this "archaic" law, the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act, has been frozen for more than 60 years, locked in a time when women worked in the home, most families had only one wage earner, and nobody went to their kids' soccer games. Times have changed. Families have changed, and the workforce has changed. Yet the law has not changed. We know that workers in Federal, State, and local governments are permitted to choose time and a half off for working overtime hours and thus enjoy a great deal more flexibility than their private sector counterparts. Federal workers use it and like it. Police officers use it and like it. Park district workers use it and like it. In fact, one employee back in

my district in suburban Chicago told me that he banks plenty of overtime hours plowing the snow during the long winter months and that allows him to take a longer vacation or spend more time with his family later during the few months when the weather is actually nice in Chicago.

For some employees, time can be more valuable than money, particularly if they have been putting in a lot of overtime hours. Their spouses begin to wonder if they are married to their job. Their children begin to forget what they look like. Their paychecks are growing, but they really would rather have just a little more time and a little more money. Most workers just want the freedom to make that choice for themselves, and many employers would like to offer them that choice. That is what this bill does. It gives employees choice and flexibility, and it gives employers another option to offer those employees who want it.

That is what the bill does. Here is what the bill does not do: this bill in no way affects the sanctity, the primacy, or the inviolability of the 40-hour work week. Let me repeat. The 40-hour work week is the law. Under this bill, an employee would earn overtime in the very same way that he or she currently does, by working more than 40 hours in a 7-day period. The bill does not alter the way that overtime is calculated. What this bill does not do is require employees to take compensatory time or require employers to offer it. In fact, this bill contains numerous safeguards to protect the employee and to ensure that the choice and selection of compensatory time is truly voluntary on the part of the employee.

This bill does not give employers all the choices. Where necessary, there are effective sanctions under the bill and the Fair Labor Standards Act for employers who violate the employee protections and other provisions of this

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H4207

legislation. For example, the bill expressly prohibits an employer from directly or indirectly intimidating; threatening; coercing, or attempting to coerce, any employee for the purposes of interfering with an employee's right to take or not to take comp time or to use accrued comp time. The bill creates a new remedy under the Fair Labor Standards Act for employers who violate the anticoercion language just described.

Let me note that this bill is not mandatory for anyone. The employer need not opt to offer family time, and the employee need not opt to take family time. It is all about choices. The employer chooses whether to offer the option, and the employee chooses whether to use the option; and if an employee changes his or her mind, he or she can at any time choose to cash out, and the employer must make the payout within 30 days.

H.R. 1119 is a comprehensive, balanced bill that gives more choices for employees and more opportunities for employers to keep their employees happy. This bill is not a mandate on employers or employees. It simply gives both parties the opportunity to agree to these arrangements, an opportunity which is now denied to them by law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Family Time Flexibility Act.

CALLING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PAUL WOLFOWITZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled 2 weeks ago to read that Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, one of the key policymakers in this administration, had publicly criticized, for Turkish consumption, the Turkish military for abiding by democracy. In an interview, which I will put into the RECORD, with CNN Turk, Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz repeatedly criticized the Turkish military because it had allowed democracy to function in Turkey. And he ought to resign. We have much too much at stake in our effort to bring stable democracy to the world in general, and particularly the Middle East, to allow a man to stay in that high office who has allowed himself to say that the military did too little, was not strong enough in pressing a democratically elected government. Indeed, it is especially disturbing to have that said with regard to the government of Turkey.

Trying to encourage Islamist movements that are genuinely democratic is one of our highest goals. The clash that some have argued exists between Islamic fundamentalism and democracy is a terrible threat to the world. We have in Turkey now a government that

has Islamist groups, the political majority, and is also committed to democracy. And that parliament made a decision, not the government but the parliament, that we did not like. It failed to get a sufficient majority to join us in the war effort.

And here is what Paul Wolfowitz has to say: "... many of the institutions in Turkey that we think of as the traditional strong support is the alliance were not as forceful in leading in that direction."

Question: "Which traditional alliance are you talking about?"

"... I think particularly the military." This is Mr. Wolfowitz: "I think for whatever reason they did not play the strong leadership role on that issue that we would have expected." And the questioners were somewhat puzzled. Here is a high American official. We have said we are going to war in Iraq in part to bring about democracy, and he is criticizing a military in Turkey because it had not strongly tried to influence the elected officials? So they say what kind of a role the military might have because after all the military is not in parliament. And another interviewer says: "And they have been criticized by getting involved in politics."

Mr. Wolfowitz seems to realize he said something that he should not have, but he cannot help himself. His contempt for the democratic process, if it comes out with results he does not like, was too strong. His partisanship on this issue was too strong. So here is what Mr. Wolfowitz says: "I'm not suggesting you get involved in politics at all. I mean, I think, all I'm saying is that when you had an issue of Turkey's national interest ... I think it's perfectly appropriate, especially in your system," my emphasis, "for the military to say it was in Turkey's interest to support the United States in that effort."

The interviewer says: "Didn't they say that?"

Mr. Wolfowitz's response: "I don't know. My impression is they didn't say it with the kind of strength that would have made a difference."

In other words, they did not muscle the government. They did not use armed force, the threat of armed force, as unfortunately the Turkish military has in the past, to force the Turkish Parliament to take an action which we wanted them to take.

Mr. Wolfowitz is the Deputy Secretary of Defense. As David Greenway pointed out in the Boston Globe last week, "The Turks are perfectly aware of the Pentagon's creeping takeover of U.S. foreign policy. There will be some who consider Wolfowitz's remarks as encouragement to boot out Erdogan," the Turkish prime minister.

Let me stress again how important it is for the experiment we are seeing in Turkey to succeed, a democratic Islamist government, and they had a tough issue that we dropped in their laps; and the parliament voted and the government tried and could not get a

majority. And the Deputy Secretary of Defense says the military was not strong enough, the military did not intervene forcefully enough the way that they traditionally have? This is appalling to have such a high-ranking American official say this, and we have already got problems in post-war Iraq.

The administration's policy is a shambles there. Mr. Wolfowitz can take some of the responsibility for that. He is one of those who scoffed when Army Chief of Staff Shinseki said we are going to need several hundred thousand troops, and now of course we are being told 150,000 troops is not enough. But we have this terrible problem in Iraq clearly now since there have not been found the kinds of weapons that the administration said there would be, certainly not in the quantity they predicted.

The justification for Iraq is the impact it will have on governments in Iraq and in the rest of the Middle East. How does it help to have our Deputy Secretary of Defense, one of the shapers of that policy, now say, by the way, when we say democracy, we mean a democracy where the military intervenes strongly, not just gives its viewpoint but intervenes strongly to make sure things come out? Things in Iraq and our credibility are in enough trouble without Paul Wolfowitz compounding it, and he ought to resign.

[From the Boston Globe, May 16, 2003]

DEMOCRACY, NEOCON STYLE

(By H.D.S. Greenway)

Neoconservatives, who have risen to great power and influence within the Bush administration, have told us of their sweeping design to transform the Middle East into a model of democracy. Skeptics have demurred, but the neocons have countered that the doubters lack vision. There have been recent events, however, that bring into question the sincerity of these grand visionaries.

Take, for example, the recent remarks of Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, perhaps the most influential of the right-wing conservatives in government. Although the State Department got most of the blame for the diplomatic debacle over Turkey's failure to allow US troops to transit en route to Iraq, it was Wolfowitz who conducted much of the negotiations.

As it was, Turkey's new, democratically elected Parliament said no, much to Washington's chagrin and to the embarrassment of the Turkish government, which had urged a "yes" vote. Turkey was not the first government in a democratic state to be rebuffed by legislators. It happens in the United States all the time.

But last week, in an interview with CNN, Wolfowitz lashed out at the Turkish military for the failure to fall into line. "I think for whatever reason, they did not play the strong leadership role that we would have expected," he said.

Consider the ramifications of this statement in the Turkish context. Democracy in Turkey is alive but fragile. Open elections began only in the 1950s. Traditionally the Turkish military has seen itself as the guardian of the secular state that Kemal Ataturk put into place following the end of the Ottoman Empire after World War I.

The Turkish generals have made it a habit to step in from time to time to dismiss governments they do not like, returning rule to

civilians only when it suits them. The last time this happened was in the late 1990s, when Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan was chucked out of power by the military for being too anti-Western and too Islamic.

Islam is a growing force in Turkey, especially among the rural poor now flooding into cities. Turkey's armed forces and the elites are determined to keep the country secular. Recent Turkish elections swept all the establishment parties away and brought to power a new Parliament with a decided Islamic bent. Its leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a former mayor of Istanbul, was at first banned from becoming prime minister because of a nationalistic poem with Islamic imagery that he had once read aloud.

But Erdogan and his party had gone out of their way to be pro-West and moderate, and the military kept to its barracks. Eventually, Erdogan was allowed to assume the prime ministry, which he deserved, but not before he had been received by President Bush in the White House.

Bush rightly decided that, far from being a threat Erdogan's clean government ticket could serve as an example of how a Middle Eastern government could be Islamic, democratic, moderate, and pro-Western all at the same time.

Erdogan and his government wanted to allow US troops to use Turkish soil to attack Iraq, and not just because of the huge bribe the United States had offered. But the government couldn't persuade enough legislators. Many Turks felt the Parliament had made a mistake, that Turkish interests had been hurt, but the Parliament didn't agree, and that was that. End of story; or so it should have been.

One might have thought that anyone interested in true democracy would have been impressed and delighted. Here was Parliament defying the government, and the military didn't intervene. An American foreign policy goal is to get the European Union to accept Turkey. One of the EU's legitimate complaints is that the EU is a grouping of democracies and that the banana republic-like actions of the Turkish military over the years indicate that Turkey's democracy is only a sometime thing. But this time around, the Turkish military was not interfering.

Then up steps Paul Wolfowitz, saying that the Turkish military had not played "the strong leadership role that we would have expected." Does that mean that, in Wolfowitz's view, there should have been a military coup? Or that the Turkish generals should have threatened the Parliament? In the Turkish context there is every reason to interpret the deputy secretary of defense's remarks in that way.

The Turks are perfectly aware of the Pentagon's creeping takeover of US foreign policy. There will be some who consider Wolfowitz's remarks as encouragement to boot out Erdogan as they did Erbakan. Americans have a right to ask: Do the neocons really want democracy, or do they simply want to bully the Middle East into a semblance of democracy that will toe the American line and further neoconservative imperial fantasies?

MAY 6, 2003.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WOLFOWITZ
INTERVIEW WITH CNN TURK
(Interview Cengiz Candar and M. Ali Birand
of CNN Turk)

On the web: <http://dod.mil/transcripts/2003/tr20030506-depsecdef0156.html>

CNN Turk. Welcome Mr. Secretary with Cengiz it's been a bit tight you can imagine to come over to Washington you know to see for 36 hours so if jetlag I think we can manage that but thank you for giving your time.

Wolfowitz. Thank you to have the two distinguished journalists like you here it's a great privilege for us.

CNN Turk. That's great but let me fire the first shot. We've had, we know how keen you are around Turkish American relations. We've had a wonderful relationship starting Korea and the Cold War, Afghanistan whatever you name it. But something went wrong, dreadfully went wrong. We started with strategic alliance with strategic relationship. Strategy is gone the relationship I don't know how it's going, and in the meantime we are having two different versions, one version from Pentagon and one version from State department, but yeah we've had a bit of trouble but it's no problem. We want to have your view on those relations. Where are we standing? Is it the crisis or what happened?

Wolfowitz. I think we had a big disappointment. But it remains the case that this has been a strong alliance over many years. I think it will continue to be a strong alliance and it remains the case that Turkey is a very important country in this era because it's a country with a Muslim majority that has a strong democratic tradition and I think it remains the case that Turkey can be an important model for that part of the world that we are trying to move in a more positive direction. But I don't think if we want to sustain this strong alliance and indeed strengthen it in the future then we ought to understand what went wrong, we ought to understand the nature of that disappointment and some of it has to do with, if you like, the U.S.-Turkish bilateral piece of it. But I think it's more helpful to think of the disappointment in terms of the failure to understand what was going on in Iraq. From a U.S. Turkish point of view there is good news and bad news. The good news is that a majority of the parliament did vote to support us in the things that we asked for. The bad news is that because of the procedural issues that wasn't a big enough majority to get it done and that many of the institutions in Turkey that we think of as the traditional strong support is the alliance were not as forceful in leading in that direction.

CNN Turk. Which traditional alliance are you talking about?

Wolfowitz. Well I think you know which ones I mean but I think particularly the military. I think for whatever reason they did not play the strong leadership role on that issue that we would have expected.

But I think the bigger disappointment has to do with the general failure of the Turkish public reflected also in the government, about what the stakes were in Iraq and that here you have a neighbor with an overwhelmingly Muslim population where the people were suffering under the worst dictators in the world. And one would have thought that Muslim solidarity would have led people to say let's help the Americans liberate these people and that isn't what happened.

Okay, that's past. We are now in the present and future. The present and future is there's a spectacular opportunity in Iraq to help these newly liberated people achieve their real potential and I think that's what we need to work on together, Turkey and United States and I think what Turkey needs to do is look into its democratic soul and say, yes we believe in democracy, we believe in democracy for Muslims and Arabs. There's an opportunity now, whatever happened in the last few months, there's an opportunity now to work with the Americans to build that in Iraq. Let's seize that opportunity and do everything we can as Turks to support it.

CNN Turk. But if you make a prognosis of what went wrong earlier, since you mentioned for example the military the tradi-

tional institution which had strong connections to the United States did not play a leadership role, so for the future to repair the relationship and bring it back to its original level that means that you have to need a leadership role to be played by those who haven't played it. What kind of a role the military might have because after all the military is not working in Turkey's parliament political parties (inaudible)?

CNN Turk. And they have been criticized by getting involved in politics.

Wolfowitz. I'm not suggesting you get involved in politics at all. I mean, I think, all I'm saying is that when you had a issue of Turkey's national interest and national strategy I think it's perfectly appropriate, especially in your system, for the military to say it was in Turkey's interest to support the United States in that effort.

CNN Turk. Didn't they say that?

Wolfowitz. I don't know. My impression is they didn't say it with the kind of strength that would have made a difference. But look let's not dwell too much on the past.

CNN Turk. Let's stick to the past.

(Laughter)

Wolfowitz. No.

Voice. Were you surprised that when you heard that the Turkish Parliament rejected it?

Wolfowitz. They didn't reject.

CNN Turk. Passed through?

Wolfowitz. They didn't pass through. In fact lets, I don't know many Americans are going to watch this program but let's not keep mis-educating people that Turkey's parliament rejected it. They did not get the majority that was needed and it's true we did not get the full support that was needed.

CNN Turk. Thanks to the Turkish constitution.

Wolfowitz. And I think at the end of the day, I think Turkey has paid a bigger price for that than we have. I think for one thing the whole economic package could have been something much more substantial. But I also believe we would've achieved more rapidly the kind of stability in Northern Iraq that is as much in Turkey's interest as it is in ours. But we are where we are today and achieving stability in Northern Iraq remains in Turkey's interest, it's very much in our interest, we need to work together to make sure that that's achieved. I think it can be achieved. We've been saying repeatedly and very emphatically, starting with my trip in Ankara back in July, that we oppose an independent Kurdish state in Northern Iraq, that we strongly support maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq. I think it's very interesting and positive that today both of the key Kurdish Barzani and Talabani are in Baghdad trying to become major forces in a future integrated Iraq. That's a positive development, which we all ought to welcome. We need to work together to make that happen. We need to work together, although it's mainly going to be our responsibility, but to make sure that the very difficult property claims that people are making in the north get resolved peacefully and not through force. There are going to be a lot difficult problems in the period going forward. And I just, you know every so often I hear some people suggesting, well the right reaction for Turkey to this bump in our relationship is, well we should make more friends with Iran and more friends with Syria. Excuse me, that's absolutely the wrong way to go. The right way to go, as I say, is to think about where the real democrats, where does democracy need to be supported. It's going to be a huge boon to Turkey when the sanctions are lifted from Iraq when trade can move easily across the borders and when Iraq begins to realize it's real potential as a democratic neighbor of Turkey.

CNN Turk. This is also a matter of debate within Turkey itself but whenever an argument is brought it is not the time to have a close relations with Iran and with Syria at juncture of history. Some come up and say that they are our neighbors, when I mean some, they are officials following Islam, they are our neighbors it's very natural that we would have these kinds of relationships. And look the American Secretary of State goes to visit Syria and historically the American Secretary of States like they are one of them, Warren Christopher visited 22 times, never stepping his foot in Turkey. So if this kind of an argument comes, we and Turkey feel that there are different signals coming from Washington. Which kind of signal we have to be the recipient more than the other?

Wolfowitz. I'm sorry I think there's one signal with respect to Syria. This Secretary of State—I'm not going to talk about previous ones—this Secretary of State went to Syria and delivered a very tough message about how Syria needs to shape up and stop supporting terrorism and stop interfering with Iraq. That's the message that ought to come through and I think anything, that Turkey does what Syria or does with Iran should fit into an overall policy with us, of getting those countries to change their bad behavior. In the meantime, it seems to me, I know this an American view but, if I were Turk I'd believe I would say in spite of whatever has gone wrong in the last year, Turkey's strongest friend in the world is the United States. Turkey's real interests lie with the United States and when we look at our neighbor to the south this newly liberated country called Iraq, we have the same interest the Americans do in keeping it a unified country and making it a democratic country and helping to change the economy from this sort of Stalinist structure that the Iraqis have lived under for 30 years, into the kind of free enterprise economy that's going to be a huge boon to Turkey and all the neighbors.

CNN Turk. So in a way, you are not against Turkey's having relations with Syria and Iran but you want the same message to go to those (inaudible).

Wolfowitz. Absolutely. I mean of course they are your neighbors. But you want them to behave as neighbors. You don't want to suggest that well they can ignore the message of the Secretary of State of the United States because our powerful Turkish friend is ignoring it also. I think it's very important that we be coordinated.

CNN Turk. We need to discuss some misunderstanding as well for the time being and for the future of Iraq between two countries, two allies, Turkey and the United States and they are recently. We have two different interpretations about an incident that took place in Northern Iraq near Kirkuk between the American forces and the Turkish Special Forces. According to the American media the Turkish Special Forces were trying to bring weapons into (inaudible) Kirkuk they were intercepted by the American military there and then escorted back to Turkish frontier. Why would Turkish Foreign Minister say it was an humanitarian aid convoy which was assisted by some security personnel so they were there to secure the free travel of the Humanitarian aid convey. So what's the interpretation since we are speaking here in the Pentagon? What happened?

Wolfowitz. Well I don't think I want to get into it. You want to do history I want to do the future. What happened shouldn't have happened. And it was clearly something that was done ignoring everything that we have said. But it was fixed. I don't think it'll happen again, I think Secretary Powell and Foreign Minister Gul had a very good clear dis-

cussion about it and hopefully we are on a better track now. But that's a good example I think, of where, whatever Turkey does in the north, and we understand Turkey has important interest in the north. It's got to be coordinated now through the coalition, through General Franks. We can't any longer have unilateral action in Northern Iraq.

CNN Turk. Why the question for the future then? On the same issue there is a small Turkish military presence in Northern Iraq.

They had to record it with the coalition forces you are saying right?

Wolfowitz. Well as long as they are there, yes.

CNN Turk. And the short coming future?

Wolfowitz. The goal ought to be, they shouldn't be needed in the long run. But let's in the meantime . . .

CNN Turk. That's what I'm after, I mean now there's a Kurdish authority—kind of a self-rule in Northern Iraq. Who happened to become America's close allies in the last war effort there? So in the coming future if they come up and say that we don't need anymore, the Turkish military presence despite it's small (inaudible) military personnel. In such a case, by being the real leader to the element in the area, in Northern Iraq what (inaudible)?

Wolfowitz. The real military elements in Northern Iraq are the coalition forces. We now have very substantial heavy American forces up north and that is the real military element and everybody better listen to the instructions of General Franks including any armed groups, any Kurdish groups. But I think the goal has got to be a free and democratic Iraq where Northern Iraq is never again a sanctuary for terrorists to be attacking Turkey. We've got to find a way to make sure that doesn't happen again. When we are confident about it then there is absolutely no reason for any Turkish presence. But if there's going to be a presence as long as it's there it clearly has got to be under the direction and control of the coalition. . . .

□ 1245

STEMMING THE SPREAD OF CARGO THEFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a problem that has been below the Federal radar screen for far too long. Every year tens of billions of dollars are lost to cargo theft. This epidemic has plagued the United States for over 30 years, with little being done to stem its spread. With the prevalence of cargo theft today, insurance companies have placed a heavy burden on the trucking industry. The costs associated with investigation and insurance payments are only exacerbating what is already an industry crisis.

Typical targets for cargo theft often include shipments of clothing, prescription drugs, computers and jewelry. A truckload of computer and microprocessors can be worth millions. A truckload of cigarettes, another common target, can be worth up to \$2 million. The high value to volume ratio of high-tech goods has encouraged criminals previously involved in drug deal-

ing to move into this area of activity where they run less risk of detection and suffer less severe penalties if caught.

The National Cargo Security Council wants to see an increase in criminal penalties for cargo theft as well as employment of more trained cargo theft task forces. The Council reported that cargo worth \$12 billion is stolen in the United States every year, and yet the penalties for cargo theft are lower than that for selling drugs.

Cargo thieves employ creative means to prey upon cargo carriers and have managed to stay one step ahead of the authorities. Thieves know what they want and where they can find it. Striking cargo containers at ports, at trains and 18-wheelers, hijackers pry open the doors, remove the goods and replace them with bags of sand so that there is no change in weight. They will then proceed to put new pins in the hinges so the crime is not noticed until the containers are opened upon arrival.

This manner of theft is known as "leakage," in that thieves attack intermodal containers by defeating the integrity of the security seal. This practice often confounds investigators, since they have no idea at what point the cargo was stolen.

Eighteen-wheeler cargo carriers now experience approximately 85 percent of theft. Thieves will either roll the dice, stealing containers with unknown contents, or they will go as far as camping outside of distribution centers. This method, called "full-load truck theft," involves monitoring shipments out of distribution centers that are known for putting out expensive goods. The thieves will then follow the trucks in rental cars, waiting for the right time to pounce. This will often occur at truck rest stops where the driver leaves the vehicle. The process can amazingly take but a few minutes. These professional criminals are usually licensed truck drivers who can hotwire a truck quickly and efficiently.

Once goods are successfully stolen, they will be moved to port warehouses where they will wait to be exported. Depending upon where the goods are to be shipped, they will most likely be shipped to ports in Miami, Los Angeles or New York. The stolen cargo changes hands several times in what is a form of cargo laundering. By the time the cargo is ready for export, it is most likely to be seen as a legal shipment. Authorities have found it difficult to track outgoing cargo since outbound shipments are not checked, due to the fact that they are not subject to U.S. tariff laws.

Mr. Speaker, Members in this Chamber need to be aware of this problem. It is time that we got aggressive and made our highways again safe for commerce. This country is in dire need of harsher criminal penalties, and this need can be proven by the fact that criminals are turning to cargo theft in hordes. Many criminals are abandoning

the drug trade for a crime just as lucrative but with lenient penalties.

This body must make an example out of cargo thieves. We must let them know that they will not get away with just merely a slap on the hand. As sheriff's departments begin integrating special cargo theft task forces, we must arm them with the ability to prosecute criminals with stiffer penalties. Until we strengthen these laws, this 30-year-old crime wave will persist, threatening our ports, our roads and raping our economy of billions and billions of dollars.

MCGOVERN-DOLE PROGRAM CAN HELP ARAB STATES EDUCATE GIRLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week the United Nations issued a report that some eight million primary school age children remain out of school in the Arab states, and 5 million of them are girls. The report also found that, when given the opportunity to go to school, the girls tend to have to repeat grades less often than boys and to complete their primary and secondary schooling more often.

The report covered 19 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Palestinian Territories.

The report also reviewed overall literacy rates in these countries and found that one-third of the men and one-half of the women are still illiterate in the Arab states.

Iraq had the highest overall illiteracy rate of 61 percent, and Jordan was the lowest. The countries where female illiteracy are the highest are Iraq, at 77 percent, Yemen with 76 percent, Mauritania with 71 percent, and Morocco at 65 percent.

Mr. Speaker, we have long known that there is no greater key to economic development, lower birth rates and strengthening democracy than the education of girls. This result has been well documented by the World Bank, USAID and independent education and development organizations.

As part of our reconstruction efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the Persian Gulf and the Arab world, the United States and the international community must emphasize the education of girls and the involvement of women in development decisions.

A proven method of increasing the numbers of girls who enroll and attend school is to provide meals in schools. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a program with a proven track record of success in this area, the

George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education Program, formerly known as the Global Food for Education pilot program.

A recent evaluation of the GFEI pilot program demonstrated its success at attracting more girls to school as well as involving their parents in their education.

Once the girls are at school, clearly we need to make sure they receive a good education, which we help promote through several USAID-funded education programs, carried out by a wide array of governments and non-governmental organizations.

But, first, we must encourage families to send their daughters to school; and the McGovern-Dole program is a proven program to attract girls, as well as the boys who are not currently enrolled in school, and to help them be better prepared to learn and study by providing a daily nutritious meal in the school setting.

We all know that hungry children do not learn as well as their well-fed counterparts. We know this from our own experience here in the United States and from studies done around the world.

This is the strength of the McGovern-Dole program. It attracts children to school by offering meals, and then increases their ability to learn by providing them at least one nutritious meal at school.

I have seen first-hand in many parts of the world how this school meal is often the only food many children can count on every day and that the school may be their only stable reality in a world of chaos and uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, I have focused my remarks today on the Arab states, but gender inequity and education and child hunger are global issues. Bad as the statistics cited for the 19 Arab countries, matters are even worse in parts of Africa and Asia, and our response must also be global.

The GFEI pilot program was initially funded at \$300 million. Last year, over 70 bipartisan members of this House and every single Member of the other body called upon the administration to provide at least this amount of funding in fiscal year 2004 for the McGovern-Dole program.

I urge my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations to make sure that the McGovern-Dole program is fully funded at \$300 million in fiscal year 2004. I further urge the committee to provide additional funds for the McGovern-Dole program and ensure that it is an integrated part of reconstruction efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere to increase the number of girls attending school and to decrease the incidence of hunger among children.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD.

EDUCATION IN THE ARAB STATES: FIVE MILLION GIRLS STILL DENIED ACCESS TO SCHOOL

PARIS.—Some eight million primary school-age children remain out-of-school in

the Arab States and five million of them are girls, according to a new report published by UNESCO. However, it finds that when given the opportunity to go to school, girls tend to repeat less than boys and to complete their primary and secondary schooling more often.

Prepared by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the Arab States Regional Report surveyed education in 19 countries—Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, as well as the Palestinian Autonomous Territories—with a total population of 270 million people, 39 percent of whom are under the age of 14.

It covers the 1999/2000 school year and consequently does not take into account the damage to education systems resulting from the conflicts in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories and Iraq, both of which, the report found, had reported relatively high levels of participation in schooling.

The report recognizes that "considerable investments" were made in education throughout the region over the past four decades and, as a result, many countries were close to the objective of getting all children into school. However, it also finds that gender parity (equal enrollment rates among boys and girls) had only been achieved in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon and United Arab Emirates. Compared to other regions, the Arab States had better gender parity in terms of access to primary school than countries in Francophone Africa.

According to the report, 35 million children, 54 percent of them boys, attended primary school in the 1999/2000 academic year. This leaves nearly one child in five of primary age (one girl in four) still out-of-school. Djibouti was at the bottom of the ladder for enrollment, with only 30 percent of its primary-age children in school. It also had the biggest gap between enrollment rates of boys and girls in primary school, with only slightly more than 35 percent of primary age boys in school and just over 26 percent of girls.

On the other hand, the report shows that in all countries except Sudan, girls are less likely to repeat grades than boys in primary school. Regionally only six percent of girls repeated a year, as against nine percent of boys, although these figures mask big differences between countries. Jordan, for example, had the lowest overall rate of repetition (one percent), and Tunisia the highest (16 percent).

More than 90 percent of primary pupils throughout the region completed the primary cycle, however, girls had a slight edge in most countries except in the United Arab Emirates, where 93 percent of boys completed primary school compared to 92 percent of girls.

At the secondary level, states the report, some 22.5 million students of all ages, or 60 percent of the population of secondary school age (approx. 12-18 years), were enrolled in the survey year. Of this total just under 10.6 million, or 47 percent, were girls. Once again, these figures masked substantial differences between countries, and the report notes that participation rates in secondary education were considerably lower than primary schooling.

According to the report, primary pupils were most likely to make the transition to secondary school in Bahrain (98 percent), Jordan (97 percent), the Palestinian Autonomous Territories (96 percent), United Arab Emirates (96 percent), and Oman (95 percent). In Algeria and Tunisia, the report found that only two out of every three pupils made the move from primary to secondary school.

The report found that proportionally more girls than boys of secondary school-age were enrolled at this level. For example, 87 percent of secondary school-age girls were enrolled in Bahrain, as against 77 percent of secondary school-age boys. In Jordan, 78 percent of girls in this age group were enrolled, compared to 73 percent of boys in the same category.

As with primary education, girls also outshone the boys in all 13 countries that provided the relevant data, although the report signals that repetition rates at secondary level were generally high from both sexes. In Algeria, 31 percent of boys repeated compared to 24 percent of girls. In Tunisia, 20 percent of boys repeated against 17 percent of girls. And in Saudi Arabia, 12 percent of boys repeated and only six percent of girls.

Each of the countries involved has at least one institution of tertiary education. The report noted that, "a great many students [...] go abroad to complete their training," either to Europe and North America or in other Arab States.

During the survey year, some five million students were enrolled in tertiary courses, of home just over two million, or nearly 40 percent, were women. Women's participation in tertiary education was markedly less than that of men in Iraq, Djibouti, Morocco and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

Social Science, business and law are the most favoured subjects, and accounted for one third of students in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories. In Saudi Arabia, 50 percent of tertiary students chose education as their field of study, compared to only two percent in Morocco and Lebanon. Least favoured subjects were agriculture and services.

According to the report, a large proportion of the teaching staff through the region are women. They account for three-quarters of teachers at pre-primary level and 52 percent of primary teachers. Their numbers fall considerably at the territory level: data were not available for the survey years, but in 1998/99, they made up only 25 percent of the tertiary teaching force.

The majority of these teachers, according to the report, were qualified. The only country where this was not the case was Lebanon, where, for example, only one primary teacher in five met national-defined pre-service qualification standards.

Pupil teacher ratios vary greatly throughout the region, ranging from a low of 12 primary pupils per teacher in Saudi Arabia to 45 in Mauritania. The median for the 15 countries that supplied data is 23 pupils per teacher.

Private enrollments are very low in the majority of countries, except in Lebanon (66 percent in primary and 53 percent in secondary) and the United Arab Emirates (45 percent and 32 percent, respectively).

Public spending on education varies greatly from country to country. With 9.5 percent of its GDP devoted to education, Saudi Arabia is the region's biggest investor in education, followed by Tunisia (7.5 percent). On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon and Mauritania allocate only two to three percent of GDP to education. Percentages for the other countries range from 3.4 percent in the Syrian Arab Republic, to almost five percent in Morocco.

These figures represent a big increase in education spending through the region over the past four decades. This investment "has paid off", states the report: between 1960 and 1985 the time children spent in school increased by an average two and a half years.

The report also notes the number of women participating in the labour market greatly increased over the past 20 years, "although in general they have lesser-paid jobs than do men."

Nonetheless, it found that one man in three and one woman in two was still illiterate in the Arab States. Iraq had the highest overall illiteracy rate (61 percent) and Jordan the lowest (12 percent). The countries where female illiteracy rates were highest were Iraq (77 percent), Yemen (76 percent), Mauritania (71 percent) and Morocco (65 percent).

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal is Your mercy, Lord, ever patient with our human ways. Grant success to the work of this Congress. Bless the very desire to serve You have placed in the hearts of these men and women as Members of the House of Representatives.

By representing the interests of the people and districts which have sent them here, they are lifted beyond self-interest. In caring for the interests of the entire Nation, they are stretched to a broader perspective.

As they dedicate themselves and their work together to You, Almighty God, they are drawn by Your universal love and pervasive justice both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETRI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 16, 2003 at 2:50 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 58.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 128.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit sealed envelopes received from the White House on May 16, 2003, at 12:15 p.m. and said to contain messages from the President whereby he submits a copy of a notice filed earlier with the *Federal Register*, continuing the emergency with Burma first declared in Executive Order 13407 of May 20, 1997, and whereby he submits a 6-month periodic report in accordance with 50 USC 1641(c) and 50 USC 1703(c) on the national emergency with respect to Burma.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON,
Deputy Clerk.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (H. DOC. NO. 108-72)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20,

2003, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17, 2002.

The crisis between the United States and Burma that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

The White House, May 16, 2003.

REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-73)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration, covering the 6-month period since November 20, 2002, on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

The White House, May 16, 2003.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF BUCKLE UP AMERICA WEEK

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 166) expressing the sense of Congress in support of Buckle Up America Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 166

Whereas Buckle Up America is a national campaign that promotes and encourages safety belt and child safety seat use;

Whereas failure to wear safety belts and use child safety seats contributes to more fatalities than any other single traffic safety-related behavior;

Whereas, in 2002, 42,850 people were killed in automobile accidents and 2,914,000 people were injured in such accidents;

Whereas the economic cost to society is estimated at annual cost of non-use at current safety belt usage rates is \$26 billion per year;

Whereas most passenger vehicle occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes continue to be those not restrained by safety belts or child safety seats;

Whereas crashes are the leading killer of all children, including African-American and Hispanic children;

Whereas car crashes are the second leading killer of African-American young men,

Whereas according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, safety belts saved over 11,000 lives in the United States in 2000; and

Whereas educational programs like Buckle Up America Week have increased seat belt usage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all people throughout the Nation should talk to family and friends about the importance of wearing a safety belt;

(2) law enforcement agencies should be commended for their commitment to enforce safety belt usage laws;

(3) national and community agencies and organizations should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about Buckle Up America Week;

(4) all legislative leaders should participate in Buckle Up America events; and

(5) drivers and passengers should insist their fellow automobile passengers wear their safety belt and that all children in the car are buckled up in the appropriate restraint for their age, height, and weight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This week is Buckle Up America Week. The legislation before us, House Concurrent Resolution 166, expresses the sense of Congress in support of Buckle Up America Week.

This national campaign is dedicated to increasing the proper use of seat belts and child safety seats. For the first time in several years, highway fatalities increased from the previous year. Nearly 43,000 people died and over 3 million were injured on our Nation's highways last year. This is the highest number of highway fatalities since 1990.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration research, in the past 26 years safety belts prevented 135,000 and 3.8 million injuries, saving \$585 billion in medical and other costs. If all vehicle occupants had used safety belts during that period, nearly 315,000 deaths and 5.2 million injuries could

have been prevented and \$913 billion in costs saved.

We have made significant headway recently. Seat belt use has increased dramatically over the last 20 years. In 1984, seat belt use was only 15 percent. Today, the national average is 75 percent. But more needs to be done.

Most vehicle occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes in recent years were not wearing seat belts. Even more disturbing is the fact that traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 6 and 14. About half of children ages 4 to 7 who are fatally injured in motor vehicle accidents were completely unrestrained.

Child safety seats save thousands of children's lives during motor vehicle crashes each year. This resolution draws much-needed attention to the pressing issue of increasing seat belt and child safety seat use. I applaud the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Buckle Up America Week marks a high point in our push for greater seat belt and child safety seat use. This week kicks off a massive \$20 million "Click It or Ticket" mobilization, the largest-ever nationwide law enforcement program to increase safety belt use. More than 12,000 law enforcement agencies in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will conduct safety belt checkpoints as part of the mobilization.

And all I can say is, watch out, Members, because we are doing it in this region.

This year, the effort is specifically targeting one of our most at-risk populations: teenagers. Due in large part to low seat belt use, fatality rates for teen drivers are four times higher than for older drivers. In 2002, 4,942 16- to 19-year-old teens were killed in traffic crashes, and thousands more were injured. Two out of the five deaths among teens are the result of a traffic crash.

Today, safety belt use stands at 75 percent of the general population, but less than 69 percent for teens. We know the way to increase seat belt use is through strong laws and high visibility enforcement. Prior campaigns of this kind have produced a 9 percent overall increase in seat belt use. So today we begin by putting people on notice to click it or expect a ticket. The campaign runs through June 1st.

I want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), as well as the sponsor, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), for bringing this matter to the House floor. Because of our efforts, and especially efforts of communities and law enforcement agencies around the Nation, I believe we will see Americans and American teenagers

buckling up as never before. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for this life-saving measure.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I offer this resolution today and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting Buckle Up America Week. This national campaign promotes awareness of safety belt and child safety seat use. The fundamental message is that seatbelts save lives. In 2002, over 42,850 people were killed in automobile accidents, and 2.9 million people were injured in such. An average of four Americans die every hour in car accidents, ninety-six people a day. Many of these injuries and deaths could be prevented by wearing a seatbelt.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated safety belts saved more than 11,000 American lives in 2000. Educational Programs like Buckle Up America Week have successfully increased seat belt usage. These programs aim to encourage children and adults to start or continue to use safety belts each time they get into their vehicles. I applaud all law enforcement agencies for their commitment to the enforcement of safety belt usage laws. Such dedication serves to encourage increased seat belt usage.

Lack of seat belt use costs Americans \$26 billion every year. We all pay higher health care and insurance costs because of unbelted drivers and passengers. But, the true cost is the loss of life. Car crashes are the leading killer of all children.

Please join me in supporting this important resolution. I urge all of my colleagues to talk with their families and friends about the importance of wearing safety belts. Let's encourage all drivers and passengers to insist that their fellow automobile passengers buckle up and that all children are secured in the appropriate child safety seats.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 166.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JAMES L. WATSON UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1018) to designate the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1018

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1018, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) designates the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York City, New York, as the James L. Watson Court of International Trade Building.

Judge Watson was born in Harlem, New York, the son of Jamaican immigrants in 1922.

During the Second World War, Judge Watson served with the famous Buffalo Soldiers Regiment in Italy where he was wounded and returned to the United States decorated with a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge.

He graduated from New York University in 1947 and the Brooklyn Law School in 1951. In 1954, Judge Watson was elected to the New York State Senate.

In 1963, Judge Watson was elected to New York City Civil Court, a position he held until President Johnson appointed him to what was then known as the United States Customs Court and is now known as the United States Court of International Trade.

During his 25-year tenure on the bench, Judge Watson heard cases in California, Oregon, Washington, Atlanta, Tampa, Houston, El Paso, San Antonio, and Dallas on civil and criminal matters.

Judge Watson also worked to help modernize his court under the Customs Court Act of 1970. As chairman of the court's Rules and Practices Committee, he reworked the rules and facilitated the modernization of the court with the introduction of computers. He took senior status in 1991, and passed away in 2001.

I would like to note that the House passed by a voice vote similar legislation during the previous Congress. However, due to technical differences with the version in the Senate, it was never enacted. I trust our consideration this year will result in a more fa-

vorable outcome. I support the legislation, and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1018 is a bill to honor Judge James Watson, the Nation's most senior African American judge. He served on the United States Court of International Trade, a lifetime appointment by President Lyndon Johnson. Judge Watson was also a former New York Senator and civil court judge.

I knew Judge Watson when I lived in New York City. I saw him make history there. He was from a family of African American achievers and path breakers. His career spanned 36 years, and he set a record of 70 appearances serving as a visiting judge in districts around the country. On several occasions, he was the first African American to held court in parts of the deep south, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Compassion and evenhandedness were hallmarks of his judicial behavior.

In World War II, he served as an infantryman with the legendary all-black 92nd Buffalo Soldiers Division and was seriously wounded in combat in Italy. He received the Purple Heart, the Battle Star, the Combat Infantry Badge and a U.S. Army commendation.

After the war and his recuperation, he attended New York University and Brooklyn Law School. Upon graduation, he established a private practice with retired Judge Bruce Wright, Lisle Carter, former Assistant Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, and Jacob Smith. Judge Watson was elected in 1954 to the State Senate and to the Civil Court in 1963. Judge Watson hired as one of his first law clerks a young attorney named Charles Rangel.

In March, 1966, President Johnson named him to the U.S. Customs Court, which was later renamed the Court of International Trade. During his years on the International Court, Judge Watson helped develop a modern court system, rewrote many of the court's rules, and introduced computers into the court.

He was noted for a judicial style that was fair and balanced. His personal ability to settle many cases out of court helped avoid costly expenses and the unpredictability of an often-long trial.

He was a lifelong resident of Harlem, a sought-after public speaker, and an insightful adviser to local public officials. His cousins include Bruce Llewellyn, chairman of Coca-Cola, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Dorothy Llewellyn Cropper, a New York Supreme Court justice.

Judge Watson's life was full of success and friendship. He was blessed with a devoted family and loving wife.

It is fitting and proper to honor the distinguished Judge Watson with this designation, and I urge support for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great enthusiasm in support of H.R. 1018, the bill designating the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York City as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building."

I first introduced this bill in the 107th Congress when it was passed in the House but failed to be brought up in the hectic closing days of the Senate. I commend Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR for their commitment to this initiative and willingness to move the legislation early in the 108th Congress. I look forward to speedy action in the Senate to ensure enactment of this legislation that honors one of this nation's greatest jurists.

This bill will attach Judge Watson's name to the courthouse housing the U.S. Court of International Trade where he served for 36 years until his death, having achieved senior status in 1991. He was appointed to what was then the United States Customs Court in 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Reorganized and renamed by Congress in 1980, the court deals primarily with matters involving trade, including the classification and valuation of imported goods, tariffs, customs and duties and charges of unfair practices by U.S. trading partners.

Judge James L. Watson, who died at the age of 79 in the fall of 2001, was a fine man, a distinguished jurist and a pillar of the Harlem community where he was born. I was honored to have served as one of his law clerks soon after my graduation from law school.

Judge Watson was the nation's most senior African American federal judge, and was the first Black Customs Court judge in modern times assigned to cases in the deep South. As was the practice in the Customs Court, he was also assigned to preside over various criminal and civil matters in Federal District Courts across the country.

The scion of an accomplished family of lawyers, public servants and business people with roots in Jamaica, West Indies, Judge Watson had a distinguished career in New York, prior to his service on the Court of International Trade. After his service in the U.S. Army in WWII, he graduated from New York University and Brooklyn Law School. Moving from the private practice of law into the political arena, he was elected to the New York State Senate, where he served from 1954 to 1963, when he was elected to the Civil Court.

Long before this legislation, Judge Watson had placed his stamp on the functioning of the Court of International Trade. In 1970, he helped modernize the court, bringing it more in line with the rest of the federal judiciary and, as chairman of its committee on rules and practices, was instrumental in rewriting its rules and communications systems.

Judge Watson was a trailblazer in government and the law, with a reputation for fairness, good judgment, and the common touch with people. I will never be able to thank him enough for his service to our community and to our nation. More personally, I will be forever grateful for the opportunity he provided me as a young lawyer and the wisdom he instilled, which guides me to this day.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1018, a bill to designate the court of international trade building at 1 Federal Plaza in New York City as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building." The House passed legislation regarding this designation in the 107th Congress, unfortunately, the other body never acted. I am glad that the House is acting on this bill early in the session so that there will be ample opportunity for the other body to complete action on it during this Congress.

Judge Watson, a native New Yorker, was born in Harlem in 1922 and lived and worked his entire life in New York. During World War II, he served with the legendary Buffalo Soldiers Division in the 371st Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division in World War II. After being wounded during service in Italy, he was decorated with a Purple Heart, the Battle Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and a U.S. Army Commendation.

After the war, Judge Watson graduated from New York University in 1947 and from Brooklyn Law School in 1951. He was elected to the New York State Senate in 1954. In 1962, President Kennedy selected him to accompany then Vice-President Johnson to the Jamaican Independence celebration. In 1963, he was appointed to the Civil Court of New York and hired our colleague CHARLIE RANGEL as one of his staff attorneys. Congressman RANGEL has said: "Judge Watson was my friend and constituent for many years; he was the Judge for whom I clerked after completing law school; and the man who contributed with all of his heart to his family, his community and our Nation."

President Johnson appointed Judge Watson in 1966 to what was then known as the United States Customs Court, now known as the United States Court of International Trade. During his years on the Court of International Trade, he worked to help modernize the Court and facilitated the introduction of computers into the courtroom. After 36 years on the bench, Judge Watson took senior status in 1991. He passed away at his home in Harlem in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Watson was the Nation's most senior ranking African-American Federal judge and enjoyed a national reputation for handling or fair and just sentences. He was a sought-after public speaker, who served on both the Board of Visitors of Fordham University and the board of the Harlem YMCA. Judge Watson's life serves as a model of diligence, hard work, and fairness. Many, many people, including colleagues, politicians, and other lawyers, sought the wise advice and sage counsel of Judge Watson.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 1081 and honor Judge Watson by naming the building in which he served with distinction for over three decades in his honor.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1018.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 166 and H.R. 1018.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORPHAN DRUG ACT AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR RARE DISORDERS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 147) commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 147

Whereas Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law on January 4, 1983, the Orphan Drug Act;

Whereas there are many diseases and conditions, such as Huntington's disease, myoclonus, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), Tourette syndrome, and muscular dystrophy, that affect such small numbers of individuals—populations under 200,000—residing in the United States that the diseases and conditions are considered rare;

Whereas there are 6,000 known rare diseases and conditions, affecting approximately 25,000,000 Americans;

Whereas these rare diseases and conditions are sometimes referred to as "orphan" diseases and conditions, and drugs (including biological products) to treat them are sometimes referred to as "orphan drugs";

Whereas, prior to 1983, because so few individuals were affected by any one orphan disease or condition, a pharmaceutical company that developed an orphan drug may have reasonably expected the drug to generate relatively small sales in comparison to the cost of developing the drug and, therefore, to incur a financial loss;

Whereas the object of the Orphan Drug Act was to stimulate the development of orphan drugs;

Whereas the Orphan Drug Act is one of the most successful Federal laws enacted in the last 20 years;

Whereas, prior to 1983, less than 40 therapies existed to treat orphan diseases and conditions as compared today to the more than 238 drugs, foods, and devices that now exist to treat an estimated 11,000,000 patients in the United States;

Whereas 85 percent of orphan drugs are being used to treat serious or life-threatening diseases, 31 percent treat rare forms of cancer, and approximately 50 percent are approved for pediatric uses;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders, established in 1983, is a federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with orphan diseases and conditions and assisting the organizations that serve them; and

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of orphan diseases and conditions through programs of education, advocacy, research, and service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, and recognizes the great contributions the Orphan Drug Act has made to the rare disease community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 147.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 147 which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders. This legislation, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), was unanimously approved by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 30 of this year.

H. Con. Res. 147 recognizes the great contribution the Orphan Drug Act has made to the rare disease community. In the decade before the Orphan Drug Act was enacted, only 10 new treatments for orphan diseases were developed. In the 20 years since it was passed, more than 200 new drugs, foods and devices have been approved by the Food & Drug Administration, and an additional 900 are in various stages of development.

These treatments for rare disorders treat an estimated 11 million patients in the United States. Eighty-five percent of orphan drugs are being used to treat serious or life-threatening diseases, 31 percent treat rare forms of cancer, and approximately 50 percent are approved for pediatric uses.

Last year President Bush signed into law two important bills dealing with rare diseases. The Rare Diseases Act of 2002 established an Office of Rare Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, while the Rare Diseases Orphan Product Development Act of 2002 increased funding for the Food and Drug Administration's Orphan Product Research Grants Program. I am glad we are following the enactment of these important bills by recognizing both the original Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, which has advocated tirelessly for the victims of rare diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for his work on this bill. I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 147, legislation which commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

Approximately 25 million Americans suffer from more than 6,000 rare diseases. These diseases include Huntington's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease, cystic fibrosis, and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Because of the relatively small patient populations associated with rare diseases, pharmaceutical firms are concerned about receiving an adequate return on their investment in developing medications to treat them.

In response to this problem, Congress passed the Orphan Drug Act on January 4, 1983, which allows for incentives, such as market exclusivity, for products developed for rare diseases. Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration has been able to support small clinical trials through Orphan Products Research Grants. The Orphan Drug Act has been effective, leading to the development of more than 183 drugs and four medical devices for rare diseases.

I also note that the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) was a key leader in the development of the Orphan Drug Act. The success and longevity of the Orphan Drug Act are a tribute to his skillful work on this legislation 2 decades ago.

We are also here today to recognize and commemorate the National Organization for Rare Disorders. NORD is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare, also known as "orphan", diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research and service.

The purpose of this legislation is to recognize the contributions that the Orphan Drug Act has made to the rare disease community and to commemorate the 20th anniversary of both the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization of Rare Disorders. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of H. Con. Res. 147.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), the writer of this resolution.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who is known as Mr. Health in Florida, for the gentleman's help on this important issue.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 147, a bill recognizing the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act and the creation of the National Organization for Rare Disorders.

For many years, 25 million plus Americans suffering from more than 6,000 rare diseases and disorders, including Huntington's disease, ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Tourettes syndrome and muscular dystrophy, were denied access to effective medicines because prescription drug manufacturers could rarely make a profit from marketing drugs for such small groups of patients.

A rare disease is a disease that affects a population of less than 200,000 people. Currently, one in nine Americans have a rare disease. Due to the low number of affected patients, the prescription drug industry did not adequately fund research into such treatments. Despite the urgent health need for these medicines, they became known as orphan drugs because no company would commercialize them.

On January 4, 1983, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Orphan Drug Act. This legislation created financial incentives for research and production of such orphan drugs. In addition, a new Federal program at the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration encouraged clinical research and commercial product development for products that target rare diseases.

As a result of this incredible law, which was produced in coordination with Congress, the White House and the pharmaceutical industry, over 238 drugs, biologics, foods and devices now exist, as compared to less than 40 therapies that existed before the law was enacted. Undoubtedly, this can easily be described as one of the most effective laws this Chamber has ever passed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an organization which has been committed to bringing a voice to the most underserved medical population in the world, those suffering from rare diseases, the National Organization for Rare Diseases.

NORD, established soon after the signing of the Orphan Drug Act, is a federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with orphan diseases and conditions and assisting the organizations that serve them.

NORD has been and will continue to be committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of orphan diseases and conditions through programs of education, advocacy, research and service.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Chairman Tauzin), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), and, of course, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for their effective work and advocacy of this issue. I would also like to thank Bradley Schrieber, my legislation counsel, who joins me on the floor today, who first brought this legislation to my attention.

For me, it is a personal sense of pride, because it was the first bill that was a freestanding bill that I authored that was signed into law, and I have the momentous pen in my office. I can look back on my career in Congress and know that in some small way we played a critical role in helping those voices who may be in the minority but are suffering just as those who are suffering from better-known diseases, if you will. I am delighted to be part of this, and I am glad it was brought to the floor today, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this very important year for the millions of men and women and children in this medical minority.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for Hon. Con. Res. 147, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Diseases. As the principal author of the Orphan Drug Act, I am extremely proud of what has been achieved as a result of this landmark legislation.

Almost one in 10 of us is afflicted with what are called rare diseases, diseases that affect fewer than 200,000 people. And yet before 1983 if you were unlucky enough to suffer from such a disease, you had little or no hope that a treatment or cure would be developed. The market for a drug for an individual with a rare disease simply was not large enough for the pharmaceutical companies to justify the high cost of developing a potential treatment.

The Orphan Drug Act was the first in a line of important laws that utilized creative new market incentives to encourage pharmaceutical innovation. No one was more important in the fight to pass orphan drug legislation than Abbey Meyers and the group she founded, the National Organization for Rare Disorders, or NORD. For the last 20 years, NORD has fought tirelessly for people with rare diseases, supported research, pushed for Federal funding and spread information about rare diseases. NORD's work, and the strides we have made against rare diseases thanks to the Orphan Drug Act, justly deserve to be honored in this resolution. I want to join my colleagues in urging that this matter be passed by the House.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 147, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1432

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 166, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1018, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 147, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF BUCKLE UP AMERICA WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 166.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 166, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 2, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 192]

YEAS—377

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen

Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Ballance

Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez

Becerra
Bell
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggett
Billirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Combest
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford

Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holt
Honda
Hoolley (OR)
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Janklow
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)

Lucas (OK)
Majette
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryan (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders

Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis

Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner (OH)
Turner (TX)
Udall (NM)
Upton

Van Hollen
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

[Roll No. 193]

YEAS—380

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Ballance
Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Becerra
Bell
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggett
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Combest
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, L.

Diaz-Balart, M.
Doggett
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holt
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Janklow
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klecza

Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Majette
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam

Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky

Schiff
Schrock
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner (OH)
Turner (TX)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

NAYS—2

Paul
Smith (MI)

NOT VOTING—55

Baker
Boswell
Burns
Burr
Case
Conyers
Deal (GA)
Delahunt
DeLay
Dicks
Dingell
Doyle
Ehlers
English
Everett
Fattah
Feeney
Fletcher
Gallegly
Gephardt
Graves
Gutierrez
Holden
Hyde
Jefferson
Jenkins
Kanjorski
Lipinski
Lynch
McCarthy (NY)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Owens
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Rogers (KY)
Sessions
Shadegg
Sherwood
Shuster
Souder
Stark
Stupak
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Tiahrt
Toomey
Udall (CO)
Velazquez
Walsh
Waters
Young (FL)

□ 1850

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the next vote in this series will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

JAMES L. WATSON UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1018.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1018, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows:

NOT VOTING—54

Baker
Boswell
Burns
Burr
Case
Conyers
Deal (GA)
Delahunt
DeLay
Dicks
Dingell
Doyle
Ehlers
English
Everett
Fattah
Feeney
Fletcher
Gallegly
Gephardt
Graves
Gutierrez
Holden
Honda
Hyde
Jefferson
Jenkins
Kanjorski
Lipinski
Lynch
McCarthy (NY)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Peterson (PA)
Rogers (KY)
Sessions
Shadegg
Sherwood
Shuster
Souder
Stark
Stupak
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Tiahrt
Toomey
Udall (CO)
Velazquez
Walsh
Waters
Young (FL)

□ 1856

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 192 and 193, I was not recorded due to travel delays because of attending a memorial service. If recorded, I would have voted "yea" on 192 and "yea" on 193.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 192 and 193, I missed these votes because my airplane flight was delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORPHAN DRUG ACT AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR RARE DISORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the

concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 147, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 147, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

YEAS—386

Abercrombie	Crane	Hobson
Ackerman	Crenshaw	Hoefel
Aderholt	Crowley	Hoekstra
Akin	Cubin	Holt
Alexander	Culberson	Honda
Allen	Cummings	Hooley (OR)
Andrews	Cunningham	Hostettler
Baca	Davis (AL)	Houghton
Bachus	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Baird	Davis (FL)	Hulshof
Baker	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Baldwin	Davis (TN)	Inslee
Ballance	Davis, Jo Ann	Isakson
Ballenger	Davis, Tom	Israel
Barrett (SC)	DeFazio	Issa
Bartlett (MD)	DeGette	Istook
Barton (TX)	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Bass	DeMint	Jackson-Lee
Beauprez	Deutsch	(TX)
Becerra	Diaz-Balart, L.	Janklow
Bell	Diaz-Balart, M.	John
Bereuter	Doggett	Johnson (CT)
Berkley	Dooley (CA)	Johnson (IL)
Berman	Doolittle	Johnson, E. B.
Berry	Dreier	Johnson, Sam
Biggert	Duncan	Jones (NC)
Bilirakis	Dunn	Jones (OH)
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	Kaptur
Bishop (NY)	Ehlers	Keller
Bishop (UT)	Emanuel	Kelly
Blackburn	Emerson	Kennedy (MN)
Blumenauer	Engel	Kennedy (RI)
Blunt	Eshoo	Kildee
Boehlert	Etheridge	Kilpatrick
Boehner	Evans	Kind
Bonilla	Farr	King (IA)
Bonner	Ferguson	King (NY)
Bono	Filner	Kingston
Boozman	Flake	Kirk
Boucher	Foley	Kleczka
Boyd	Forbes	Kline
Bradley (NH)	Ford	Knollenberg
Brady (PA)	Fossella	Kolbe
Brady (TX)	Frank (MA)	Kucinich
Brown (OH)	Franks (AZ)	LaHood
Brown (SC)	Frelinghuysen	Lampson
Brown, Corrine	Frost	Langevin
Brown-Waite,	Garrett (NJ)	Lantos
Ginny	Gerlach	Larsen (WA)
Burgess	Gibbons	Larson (CT)
Burns	Gilchrest	Latham
Burton (IN)	Gillmor	LaTourette
Buyer	Gingrey	Leach
Calvert	Gonzalez	Lee
Camp	Goode	Levin
Cannon	Goodlatte	Lewis (CA)
Cantor	Gordon	Lewis (GA)
Capito	Goss	Lewis (KY)
Capps	Granger	Linder
Capuano	Green (TX)	LoBiondo
Cardin	Green (WI)	Lofgren
Cardoza	Greenwood	Lowe
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	Lucas (KY)
Carson (OK)	Gutknecht	Lucas (OK)
Carter	Hall	Majette
Castle	Harman	Maloney
Chabot	Harris	Manzullo
Chocola	Hart	Markey
Clay	Hastings (FL)	Marshall
Clyburn	Hastings (WA)	Matheson
Coble	Hayes	Matsui
Cole	Hayworth	McCarthy (MO)
Collins	Hefley	McCollum
Combest	Hensarling	McCotter
Cooper	Hergert	McCrery
Costello	Hill	McDermott
Cox	Hinchey	McGovern
Cramer	Hinojosa	McHugh

McInnis	Pomeroy	Skelton
McIntyre	Porter	Slaughter
McKeon	Portman	Smith (MI)
McNulty	Price (NC)	Smith (NJ)
Meehan	Pryce (OH)	Smith (TX)
Meek (FL)	Putnam	Smith (WA)
Meeks (NY)	Quinn	Snyder
Menendez	Radanovich	Solis
Mica	Rahall	Spratt
Michaud	Ramstad	Stearns
Millender-	Rangel	Stenholm
McDonald	Regula	Strickland
Miller (FL)	Rehberg	Sullivan
Miller (MI)	Renzi	Sweeney
Miller, George	Reyes	Tancredo
Moore	Reynolds	Tanner
Moran (KS)	Rodriguez	Tauscher
Moran (VA)	Rogers (AL)	Taylor (MS)
Murphy	Rogers (KY)	Terry
Murtha	Rogers (MI)	Thomas
Musgrave	Rohrabacher	Thompson (CA)
Myrick	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (MS)
Napolitano	Ross	Thornberry
Nethercutt	Rothman	Tiberi
Ney	Roybal-Allard	Tierney
Northup	Royce	Towns
Norwood	Ruppersberger	Turner (OH)
Nunes	Rush	Turner (TX)
Nussle	Ryan (OH)	Udall (NM)
Oberstar	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Obey	Ryun (KS)	Van Hollen
Olver	Sabo	Visclosky
Ortiz	Sanchez, Linda	Vitter
Osborne	T.	Walden (OR)
Ose	Sanchez, Loretta	Wamp
Otter	Sanders	Watson
Owens	Sandlin	Watt
Oxley	Saxton	Waxman
Pallone	Schakowsky	Weiner
Pascarell	Schiff	Weldon (FL)
Pastor	Schrock	Weldon (PA)
Paul	Scott (GA)	Weller
Payne	Scott (VA)	Wexler
Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Whitfield
Pelosi	Serrano	Wicker
Pence	Shaw	Wilson (NM)
Peterson (MN)	Shays	Wilson (SC)
Petri	Sherman	Wolf
Pickering	Sherwood	Woolsey
Pitts	Shimkus	Wu
Platts	Simmons	Wynn
Pombo	Simpson	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—48

Boswell	Gephardt	Peterson (PA)
Burr	Graves	Sessions
Case	Gutierrez	Shadegg
Conyers	Holden	Shuster
Deal (GA)	Hyde	Souder
Delahunt	Jefferson	Stark
DeLay	Jenkins	Stupak
Dicks	Kanjorski	Tauzin
Dingell	Lipinski	Taylor (NC)
Doyle	Lynch	Tiahrt
English	McCarthy (NY)	Toomey
Everett	Miller (NC)	Udall (CO)
Fattah	Miller, Gary	Velazquez
Feeney	Mollohan	Walsh
Fletcher	Nadler	Waters
Gallegly	Neal (MA)	Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) (during the vote). Members are advised there are less than 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1298. An act to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC 6431 NOTE), amended by section 681(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 USC 2651 NOTE), the order of the House of January 8, 2003, and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a two-year term ending May 14, 2005:

Ms. Felice Gaer of Paramus, New Jersey, to succeed herself.

□ 1915

TEXAS LEGISLATORS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week was a week. Fifty-five Texans decided that it was their job to represent their constituents, that the process of government in Austin was there to undermine the representation of their constituents.

I want to again applaud the 55 who had the courage to realize that the cutting of children's health care and Medicaid was not the kind of legislative process they wanted to engage in and to stand up against an intercession, intermediary redistricting so that the people of Texas could be represented.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important now that we look back, that we make sure that the Federal resources did not inappropriately interfere with the constitutional privilege of elected State legislators in Texas. I believe it was imperative that my colleagues sent a letter to Secretary Ridge to get all of the documentation, including the tapes, that will show us whether or not the Homeland Security Department was utilized against these brave souls. It is important for the government to raise the shades and light the sunshine to tell the truth on what happened last week.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under the Speaker's

announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AUTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for some time now I have been coming to the floor on a regular basis talking about children who are autistic. A few short years ago, one in 10,000 children in this country was autistic. Now it is more like one in 200. This is a 50-fold increase. We have an absolute epidemic.

The major culprit in most people's minds is the mercury, mercury that has been in vaccines as a preservative. Since the 1930s and 1940s, they have been putting mercury in vaccines as part of a preservative called thimerosal. As children started getting more and more vaccinations, the amount of mercury in their systems grew and grew and grew. And now children get between 25 and 30 shots before they go to kindergarten. The cumulative effect of all that mercury in their brains is causing severe neurological problems for these children, their families, and the entire country.

We did a report, a report that took 4 years in studying the problems with these vaccinations, and most people in the country are not even aware of the problem. A lot of people do not even know what autism is. But the fact of the matter is an awfully large number of these children who have been damaged and who are autistic, we believe and our report believes and shows, that they were damaged by the mercury that was injected into their bodies along with the vaccinations they were getting.

Mr. Speaker, I have been coming to the floor for some time, and every time I come to the floor I talk about letters I have been receiving from families of children and pictures of children who are autistic and their stories about how their child became autistic. We have found from all these letters that the children get their vaccinations, four, five, six, and seven shots in 1 day, in many cases; and within a very short time after that these children who are normal, who make eye-to-eye contact, who laugh and walk and do all the things that normal children do, they change. They no longer communicate, they no longer look you in the eye, they bang their heads against the wall, they have chronic diarrhea and constipation alternatively. And the problems go on and on.

I have a letter here from a fellow who says it has cost him his house. He had to sell his house, \$45,000. He had to borrow money. He is in debt up to here, and he has nowhere to turn. The Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, which was supposed to help these people, it

was created to help these people whose children were damaged by vaccines, shows no hope.

Many of these people did not get in within the 3-year time limit because they did not know what caused their child to be autistic. They did not even know their child was autistic because the doctors misdiagnosed them. So they missed the 3-year statute of limitations, and they have nowhere to go.

So we are trying to get the Senate and the House together to work out a program where children can get into the program, can have their case reviewed. And if it is proven that they were damaged by the mercury in the vaccines, or the MMR vaccine, then they can get restitution from this fund. But we are having a terrible time because the pharmaceutical companies are fighting us because they are afraid of the liability they might incur.

So we come down here every day, and we beat on this issue and beat on this issue and will continue to do that until we get some positive results, because these parents, and we have thousands of these letters, thousands, and it is growing every day, these parents have no place to turn. These children are going to grow up living to be 65, 70 years old and the taxpayers of this country are going to be taking care of them. That is the only place they can turn because the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund is not doing what it is supposed to do to help these children.

I wish everyone would look at these pictures, my colleagues back in their offices and those on the floor. These are normal children who were damaged by vaccines. Their parents have no place to turn, and the pharmaceutical companies have turned their backs on them. That is criminal and something has to be changed.

HONORING HAITIAN-AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Haitian-Americans. Yesterday, May 18, marked the 200th year of Haitian history, that country's Flag Day celebration. They celebrated in Haiti, and not only in Haiti but also in Miami, Florida, in the place we know as Little Haiti.

This was a celebration of a very proud people, a people that have invested so much into our democracy that we have here in the United States, and not only now but in the beginning. America was founded on the basic democratic beliefs of cultures and values, of people from every country in the world.

There are over 1.2 million Haitians living in the United States today, with 700,000 of them in Florida. I honor those Americans, those Haitian-Americans who continue to believe in the guiding principles of their country. Flag Day represents unity and

strength. That unity has been seen throughout American history since the 1700s during the American Revolution at Savannah. Haitian-Americans fought side by side, prevailing against Britain and creating an independence of 13 colonies. Haitian-Americans are woven within the very history and fabric of this country.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not alone on this floor this evening in introducing this Sense of Congress to establish a Haitian-American Heritage Month; and so I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I too join with my colleague in supporting this resolution, but also speaking out really to help educate our colleagues in the country about the 200th adversary of Haitian Flag Day. It is a significant event, the bicentennial of the second oldest republic in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti, that joined the United States in seeking its freedom from European colonialists in the early 1800s.

The Haitian people have fought for 200 years, have been part of a movement towards democracy not just fighting side by side with Americans but side by side with other Western Hemisphere countries in seeking their own democracy. We have had a community also in south Florida as well as throughout the country that has grown and prospered and, in fact, many of their friends and relatives today still seek that opportunity that all of us have sought in the United States of America.

Today, we have Haitian-Americans that are detained in Krome, in prison really, in the United States, in Miami-Dade County, some of whom, by court order, have been ordered to be released, and yet Attorney General Ashcroft has prevented their release by categorizing Haiti as a terrorist State at this point in time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would now yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman for bringing this very important issue to the floor. I too would like to add my support.

Haitian-Americans, Haiti in particular, had a great deal to do with the development of this country during our fight for independence in the Revolutionary War. There was a battalion in the Savannah battles where Haiti sent troops to fight alongside the colonies against the British.

Also, I think that because of Haiti's battle against Napoleon, one of the first countries to defeat the Napoleon Army, France was very strapped for cash, and it therefore had to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States for a very, very low sum of money because they needed money

after their wars. That opened up the great West. If it had not been for the Haitian country depleting funds from the French Government, the progress of moving west would not have happened so soon. So we are tied together.

As a matter of fact, Simon Bolivar lived in Haiti; and he went to liberate South America. So Haiti has had a tremendous importance in the growth and development of not only this country but the entire Western Hemisphere, and I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time once again, I want to thank both the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), for joining in; and we would ask other Members to join us in this resolution.

Yesterday, May 18, marking the 200th year of Haitian history, Haitian Americans and the country of Haiti celebrated their Flag Day. They celebrated in the country of Haiti with great fanfare on the grounds of the Haiti's capitol. In the United States Haitian Americans celebrated Flag Day with cultural events, including ceremonies, concerts, and prayer vigils. Haitian Americans in my district celebrated countywide and particularly in an area that is fondly known as "Little Haiti" to commemorate their Flag Day.

America is founded on basic democratic beliefs and cultural values of people from every country in this world. There are over 1.2 million Haitians living in the United States today, with over 700,000 in Florida. I honor Haitian Americans for continuing to believe in the guiding phrase that is included below the country arms in Haiti's flag, "In Union There Is Strength."

That unity has been seen throughout American History since the 1700s. During the American Revolution at Savannah, Haitians and Americans fought side by side prevailing against Britain and creating the independence of the 13 colonies.

Haitians Americans are woven into the fabric of American culture, economy, and politics. They are owners of newspapers, and radio stations, and have television programming and varied commercial businesses nationwide.

In the month of May, in addition to Flag Day, Haitian Americans also celebrate Labor Day on May 1 and Haiti's Mother's Day is the last Sunday in May.

It is my request that my colleagues offer their support for the legislation I introduce today expressing the sense of this body that there should be established a "Haitian-American Heritage Month." I deem it only befitting that the month of May be designated as an official month of ceremonies and celebrations, as it holds such historical significance to Haitian Americans in our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to speak in honor of a great Minnesotan, a man I am honored to call friend,

John Weaver. John is a lifetime resident of Anoka, Minnesota, the Hall-loween Capital of the World; and a city I am honored to represent.

John has had an extraordinary life over the last 75 years, and the way he has lived that life is truly an example to others. Graduating as the valedictorian of Anoka High School in 1946, he then attended the University of Minnesota, where he pursued a degree in civil engineering. While in college, John still managed to serve his country admirably aboard the USS *Iowa* and the USS *Boxer* in the Pacific Ocean while in the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps.

After graduating and building a thriving business, he never lost sight of what was truly important.

□ 1930

His highest priority was and remains his family, his wife Jill and their three children, Jeff, Sara and Martha. Even with his commitment, or frankly because of his commitment to his family, he was drawn to service in the community.

Starting with his service on the Anoka-Hennepin school board in 1971, he made it clear that he wanted to give something back to the community, and the people he served recognized this, returning him to the school board for two additional terms before they made it clear that they wanted him to use his abilities to help all Minnesotans. As a reward for his tireless dedication to improving the community, John's peers elected him to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1978. He distinguished himself by his service there.

Even after John left the State Capitol, he did not leave public service. Serving on the Anoka City Council beginning in 1983 and right up to the present day, John's energy has been put to good use for the community and the State of Minnesota. Despite his lengthy record of service and achievements in elected office, John has always looked for more opportunities for involvement. He was appointed and reappointed to the Mississippi River Coordination Commission by President George Herbert Walker Bush and President Clinton. He also served on the Minnesota Metropolitan Council of Transportation Board and was involved in countless community activities, including helping with the Anoka County History Museum. His service has had an impact on the lives of people across the States and the country.

But I think his greatest impact is not just on what he has done for us today but the impact he will have in the future. He has been very involved with the Boy Scouts of America since he himself achieved Eagle rank more than half a century ago. His years of involvement with the Scouts, the number of young men that he has helped to guide their lives to good character and good citizenship are countless.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota is called The Star of the North. With people like John Weaver, that star burns brightly.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the praise of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) for a great Minnesotan, a great American, and a man I am proud to call a friend. John Weaver is an exemplary citizen both of his community and of his Nation.

As a father of three, grandfather of six and loving husband, his dedication to his family is evident. But despite his family-first philosophy, he has continued to find time to serve his community. That makes his involvement all the more meaningful. A life-long resident of Anoka, John Weaver has served the Anoka City Council since 1983. In a true demonstration of what it means to serve, John Weaver saw a need and met it head on.

When asked why he decided to run, Weaver said, "Anoka is potentially at a crossroads. We have some interesting challenges, not the least of which is the financial picture."

Standing up for his community, John has fought tirelessly to ensure his small town is not overlooked by the State of Minnesota. John Weaver believes that it is important that the people of Anoka see a return on their taxes in the form of outstanding government services. He has gone far beyond advocating this message, personally setting an example to other community leaders.

He has a long resume of public service that the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) has already enumerated. Let me say his dedication to his community is clear, and it is an honor to recognize this fellow Minnesotan and a great American.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be heard out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

TEXAS DEMOCRATS TAKE A STAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mrs. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to praise the actions last week of 50-plus Texas House Democrats, including the representatives from my county, Representative Roberto Alonzo, Yvonne Davis, Terri Hodge, Jesse Jones, Steve Wollens, and from the adjoining county of Tarrant, Lon Burnan, and my classmates of the class of 1972, Senfronia Thompson and Pete Laney.

While I have not named the other courageous Democrats, I thank them all for their commitment to justice and integrity. No game playing, no playing both sides, the Texans took a stand. They stood against an unnecessary and unprecedented procedure which was an insult to Texas voters. They stood against the destruction of our current process which protects the voting rights of Texas citizens, and they stood against a special interest legislative agenda which placed politics before issues that are critical to Texas families such as school finance and the State budget and insurance crisis.

As I reflect upon the actions of the Texas House Democrats, I am disturbed by the reaction of their Republican counterparts in securing involvement in the Department of Homeland Security and its resources in this political matter.

The mission of the Department of Homeland Security is to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur.

Further, the Department's mandate is to mobilize and focus the resources of the Federal Government to accomplish this mission. For 2003, the Homeland Security budget is \$33.5 billion and the administration's fiscal year 2004 request is \$36.2 billion at a 7.4 percent increase.

The budgetary line items for the agency include improving information analyses and infrastructure protection, preparing for and responding to national emergencies, securing the Nation's borders and transportation systems, improving immigration services, and advancing science and technology. There is no budgetary line item slated for tracking down State legislators who are not terrorists and not a threat to homeland security.

Consequently, the Texas Republicans and this administration must answer the following question: Were the citizens of this Nation served well in the use of resources by the Department of Homeland Security in a Texas political matter? I submit that the answer is no.

Again, I salute the Texas House Democrats for their courageous and principled action and urge the administration to guarantee that the Department of Homeland Security follows its mandate: namely, securing our homeland from terrorism, not State legislators.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES TANGORA AND JACK KELLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, last week my district lost two beloved members of our community so, with sadness, I pay them posthumous tribute today.

Local attorney, civic activist, and despite the fact I was the worst law clerk he ever hired, my friend, Charles "Chuck" Tangora will truly be mourned and missed. While practicing law in Livonia for over 35 years, he raised a fine family and still found time to help improve the quality of life in our community, including being instrumental in ensuring the city of Livonia elected its first female City Council President, a quiet, mild-mannered schoolteacher named Georgia Joan McCotter.

Of course, Chuck's natural leadership abilities were recognized by all involved. He was the president of the Italian American Club, past president of Livonia Rotary and of the American Diabetes Association. And, most importantly, he was known as the one person who could always bring opposing sides to a consensus in the community's best interests. Most recently, Chuck was instrumental in raising the sizable reward which helped police solve the Marco Pesce family murder case.

And for all his benevolent works, Chuck, true to his fine, kind character never asked for anything in return but the smiles of those whose lives he touched. And once the immediate pain of his passing wanes in the winds of wistful recollection, as he, himself, would earnestly wish, there will again be smiles upon the faces of all who remember his life's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, the second pillar of our community to fall was the Honorable Jack Kelley, who gave 19 years of distinguished public service to the city he loved as a member of the Detroit City Council. If one word were used to sum up the man, no, it would not be one of the colorful words he often used, it would be the word "honest." And if two words were used, they would be "brutally honest."

It was his innate, intense honesty which led him to be a fast friend and fair foe, a colorful Celt who understood the brevity and the levity of our frail, flawed existence and felt compelled to help his fellow human beings in the short, sweet time God allowed.

And he did. After graduating from St. Francis DeSales High School, he joined the Navy and served his country for 30 months in the Pacific arena during World War II. Upon his return home, he commenced a career of public service by being appointed deputy director of the Building and Safety Engineering Department by then-Mayor Cavanagh, a post he held for 30 years. Then he was elected to his council seat in 1974, and even now his legacy continues as his son, Kevin, the Redford Township supervisor, followed in his Democratic footsteps and continued the father's noble tradition of public service.

Yes, a staunch Democrat, proud union man, and devout Irish Catholic, Jack Kelley's greatness was, to me, best expressed by another staunch Democrat, proud union member, devout Irish Catholic, and boyhood friend

of Jack Kelley's, my late father who said, "Jack Kelley was the only person I ever voted for who tried to break my nose. He is good people." Truly, we will never see the likes of Jack Kelley again, and truly we are all the lesser for his loss.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL SERIOUSLY FLAWED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the House is about to consider the defense authorization bill that, sadly, is seriously flawed. It would exempt not only the military but all Federal agencies from certain aspects of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Instead of addressing real threats to readiness, the administration and Congress is taking on an easier target, the dolphins. Using defense as cover, the Republicans propose to make changes to environmental laws in ways which have nothing to do with defense readiness, suggesting that was not their goal in the first place.

The bill would take out one of the key provisions of the ESA by requiring that only critical habitat that is deemed necessary shall be designated. Without a definition of necessary, this invites abuse and applies to all Federal lands, not just the Department of Defense.

The bill also includes the Department of Defense proposal eliminating critical habitat designation altogether on lands owned or controlled by the military.

The bill contains a rider to exempt the Department of Defense at Fort Huachuca in Arizona from any responsibility for off-base groundwater pumping that threatens the existence of the San Pedro River. This rider was not requested by the Department of Defense, nor does it address military training or preparedness, and it has created a firestorm in the State of Arizona.

The authorization bill weakens the Marine Mammal Protection Act, weakening the current definition of harassment of marine mammals. It applies to all ocean users, not just the Department of Defense.

Finally, it allows the Department to exempt itself from the Marine Mammal Protection Act for anything necessary for national defense. It excludes any meaningful involvement of the wildlife agencies, the States, Congress and the public in review of these exemptions.

Our military activities are the largest source of pollution in the country. We are the wealthiest and most powerful and most polluting country in the world. We ought to be able to figure out how to better address this problem without compromising the environmental survival of what we are fighting to protect. Given the right direction and adequate resources, our military can achieve tremendous results.

The exemptions we are debating this week are wrong on so many different levels.

First of all, the legislation is unnecessary. There is already a waiver provision in place in the law for years. There has never been a case where for military necessity a waiver has not been granted. Never, not one. Not one example has been produced before the committees that are examining this.

Additionally, it misses the real threat to military readiness, what is termed encroachment. This is the same sprawl and unplanned growth that threatens our farms and forestlands, pollutes our air and water, and congests our roadways, and this is a real threat to our ability to train and maintain the world's mightiest fighting force.

Across the country, from Ft. Stewart, Georgia, to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, development is threatening the armed forces' ability to fly planes, maneuver and conduct other readiness activities. This has led the State of California to pass their Senate bill 1468 which recognizes the long-term operations of military installations must involve a partnership between the State, local agencies and the Federal Government.

□ 1945

It provides the military, environmental organizations and local planning agencies the tools to work together to fight common enemies of military readiness like suburban sprawl. But this proposal is completely absent from the legislation coming before us.

The defense authorization bill is also wrong on a very fundamental level. It is missing an opportunity to use the Department of Defense to set the highest standards. Again, given adequate resources and the right orders, our Department of Defense can achieve any mission. We are missing that opportunity.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there is a fundamental arrogance and hypocrisy that somehow the Federal Government's rules and regulations are necessary to protect the environment. We will impose them on small business or local government but not on us ourselves. It is the wrong signal and the wrong direction to protect endangered species and the health of our planet.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1904, HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-109) on the resolution (H. Res. 239) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1904) to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and

Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE LARRY COMBEST ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chairman LARRY COMBEST on a long and successful congressional career. I was privileged to serve on the Committee on Agriculture under LARRY. We were certainly at opposite ends of the spectrum. My first 2 years on the committee were LARRY'S last 2. I was without status. He was the chairman. Regardless of seniority, each person had access to LARRY and his staff on an equal basis. I have always felt that the true measure of a person's character was how he treated those who could do nothing for him. In that respect, I thought that LARRY was really exemplary and I really appreciated the way I was received.

The most significant accomplishment of the Committee on Agriculture the last 2 years was reauthorization of the farm bill. This was a very exhaustive process. It went on over 2 years, involving roughly 50 hearings, 25 of those in various parts of the country and 25 here in Washington. Input was received from such diverse groups as the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, corn and soybean, rice and cotton, fruits and vegetables, Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Club. Everybody had a chance.

What the chairman did was ask each group to write the farm bill as they saw it needing to be written and also to score it, to come up with what it was going to cost; and so this was kind of a unique approach because I think everybody that tried began to realize how complex this was.

Again, he took input from every group. The bill was written in full committee, which I appreciated. Everybody had a chance to speak their piece. It was truly bipartisan. We hear the term bipartisan around here all the time, but this was a case where I can really, honestly say that I do not believe either side was given any advantage and that each side felt they had equal ownership, and as a result the farm bill was passed almost unanimously out of the Committee on Agriculture.

LARRY was under a great deal of pressure to delay the writing of the farm bill until 2003. Yet he realized that agriculture was in trouble, that we were surviving each year on roughly a 7, \$7.5

billion emergency payment and this simply could not go on, so he pressed forward and got the bill done in 2002 in the face of a fair amount of criticism. I thought that he showed great tenacity in doing so, and I really appreciated his efforts.

I visited South America with LARRY and other members of the Committee on Agriculture a little bit more than a year ago, and I can recall one meeting in Brazil with their agriculture leadership in which they were very critical of U.S. farm policy. They thought they were poised to take over the soybean market of the world, and I remember LARRY'S response. He said, "My responsibility is to protect the interests of American farmers and ranchers." That is what he did. Our farmers and ranchers really comprise only 1 percent roughly of our population. At one time they were a very significant part of our population. Now they are about 1 percent, and so they certainly need advocates. I really appreciate the fact that Chairman COMBEST truly did all that he could to represent a very important and often unappreciated part of our Nation.

I would like to thank the chairman for his contribution and for his career here and for the way that he worked with other people to bring agriculture to the forefront during the farm bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TEXAS REDISTRICTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, before I discuss some comments I would like to make about the courageous acts of 51 Texas legislators last week, I want to join my Republican colleagues in thanking Congressman LARRY COMBEST for so many years of dedicated public service to the State of Texas and to our country.

Those of us who believe that one of the strengths of our country comes from the values of rural America, one of the strengths of our economy comes from the productivity of our family farmers and ranchers, all of us who believe those things owe a debt of gratitude, an everlasting debt of gratitude to LARRY COMBEST for his bipartisan and strong leadership in our country not only as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture but as chairman of the very important Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence through which he served our Nation's security in so many important ways.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to talk about the actions of last week where we had

51 Texas legislators who fought to stop U.S. House Majority Leader TOM DELAY from forcing a divisive, partisan and unnecessary congressional redistricting plan through the Texas House of Representatives. Their act of courage was heralded by editorial boards throughout our State of Texas. I salute legislators like Jim Dunnam and John Mabry from my hometown of Waco, Texas.

Without their actions on Monday morning of last week, the Texas House would have passed a plan that would have split my 100-year-old historic rural central Texas district into four different congressional districts stretching from Fort Worth to the suburbs of Houston to San Antonio, literally covering hundreds and hundreds of miles without a single bit of input from one mayor or city council member in our district, one school board member, because that plan was only put together on Mother's Day afternoon last Sunday with the intention of passing it through the Texas House starting at 10 a.m. the next day, on Monday morning. That was wrong for that plan to have been pushed and right for Texas legislators to stand up not for themselves, not for me, but for the right of central Texas citizens in my district and Texans, Republicans and Democrats alike throughout our State, to have a voice in shaping their congressional districts and the future of their communities.

While the Texas legislators are back in Austin working on State priority issues, there are some questions that will not go away and some questions to which the American people deserve an answer.

Outrageously, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the new agency with the responsibility to protect American families from terrorists here and abroad, that agency used Federal antiterrorism resources and personnel to track down Texas Representative Pete Laney of Hale Center, Texas, as he flew his private airplane from his hometown to Ardmore, Oklahoma. To borrow a phrase from former Senator Lloyd Bentsen, "I know Pete Laney, Pete Laney is a friend of mine, and I can assure you Pete Laney is no terrorist." Quite to the contrary, he is the former Speaker of the Texas House, a respected leader in our legislature, respected by members of both sides of the aisle. In fact, Pete Laney was the one individual that President George Bush who then as Governor Bush asked Mr. Laney to introduce for the first time to the public President-elect Bush in his first speech to the Nation and the world once he found out he would be President.

I have some questions for the Department of Homeland Security:

One, and most importantly, why will you not release the tapes of the conversation between the Texas Department of Public Safety and the U.S. homeland security agency, the very conversation that led to the possibly

unlawful and certainly unethical use of Federal resources, antiterrorism resources to track down the law-abiding citizen Pete Laney?

Secondly, do you have something to hide? Why is our U.S. homeland security agency afraid to let the American people and the press know what was in that conversation?

Thirdly, does the public not deserve to hear the conversation that led to what does appear to be a gross abuse of Federal resources?

Fourthly, to the homeland security agency, our U.S. agency again trying to defend us against terrorism, if the tape exonerates you and your actions, what are you afraid of? Why are you not willing to release that tape now, not weeks, not months from now, not years from now? Why are you afraid to release that tape now to Members of Congress and to the public?

Fifth, did Majority Leader TOM DELAY or House Speaker Tom Craddick or any one of their staffs or someone speaking in their behalf ask the Texas Department of Public Safety to make this request to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security?

We will not know the answer to those questions until the tape of our U.S. homeland security agency is made available to the public.

Mr. Speaker, this is no longer just a Texas issue. It is an issue for all Americans who care about defending our families and our neighborhoods and our communities from terrorists. How horrible it is that during the very week that al Qaeda was preparing the final efforts apparently to attack Morocco and American citizens in Saudi Arabia our homeland security agency was tracking down former State Speaker of the House and present State representative Pete Laney in Hale Center, Texas, a community of just over 2,000 people, not known as a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism or radicalism in little old west Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CULBERSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TEXAS REDISTRICTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, there is disturbing news coming out of Wash-

ington, D.C., and Austin, Texas, today that should be of great and grave concern to all Americans. Because, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security, a U.S. government agency, has basically now had to admit that it used a homeland security plane and government resources for political purposes and now they are covering it up. As most of the country now knows, Texas Democrats in the State House recently absented themselves from the floor to break a quorum, a legitimate parliamentary maneuver. This angered the Republican powers that be in Washington, D.C. A homeland security plane was dispatched to try to follow and harass Pete Laney, the former Democratic Speaker of the Texas House, and other members. Upon being caught and not before, the Department of Homeland Security said that they actually were under the impression that the plane was lost or crashed.

Mr. Speaker, that is just not credible. That is just not so. Period.

Now it has been learned that a tape and a transcript of the contact between Homeland Security and law enforcement has been discovered. And what has been the response of homeland security? They refused to turn over the tape. They refused to turn over the transcript.

Mr. Speaker, I have two questions. What did they know and when did they know it? The U.S. Congress calls upon Homeland Security to release the tapes, stop the cover-up, and do it now. Otherwise, they need to get a dictionary and they need to look up the word "subpoena." Otherwise, they need to get the statutes and look up in the statutes the term "freedom of information."

The use of the Federal Government for political purposes should frighten all Americans. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram said this Sunday, "To meet the threat of global terrorism, the United States is assembling enormous Federal resources focusing on activities in American cities, neighborhoods and countrysides that could endanger those citizens. If we are to have this security apparatus, it must be contained to its designated purposes. There must be every safeguard so that it does not cross the thin line between protecting innocent citizens and spying on their private lives. That these security resources were used no matter in what minor way in a Texas political dispute should be alarming to us all."

And, Mr. Speaker, alarmingly there is more. Not only has the Federal Government been spying on citizens for private purposes and then covering it up but also the authority of the state has been used to intimidate and terrorize the families of Texas legislators.

□ 2000

Here are some examples: Representative Craig Eiland, his wife recently had premature twins, the twins in the neonatal unit of the hospital. Investigators were sent to the neonatal unit to

investigate and question nurses, sent to his wife's home to terrorize her.

Representative Chuck Hopson, his wife left Austin to drive 4 miles to Jacksonville. The law enforcement officer got on her bumper and went with her the entire way.

Police entered the home of Joe Pickett, a State representative. His 17-year-old daughter was there alone, and as he explained it, "They scared the holy hell out of her."

Patrick Rose had his car searched after it had been placed on the TV and everybody in the whole country knew that the Texas legislators were in Oklahoma. A senior staff member, Representative Naishtat, was told it was a felony to withhold information about his whereabouts, a total lie.

In the Corpus Christi newspaper it said this: "The wife of State Representative Jaime Capelo, Democrat, Corpus Christi, looked out her kitchen window Tuesday and noticed a blue four-door vehicle driving past. The driver looked at her home as he passed. The vehicle pulled up next to a white Chevy. 'I asked him why he was watching my house.' The man identified himself as a State trooper and told her that officials in Austin had called his office and told the troopers to follow her."

These abuses and others prompted State Representative Jim Dunnam from Waco to send a letter to Speaker Craddick and say in part: "P.S. as you know, we are at the Holiday Inn in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Please stop having our loved ones followed and staked out by law enforcement." Mr. Speaker, surely, surely Mr. Craddick's family raised him better than that.

Mr. Speaker, using the power and authority of the Federal Government to trample the U.S. Constitution and the freedoms we hold dear is outrageous. Covering it up makes it worse. Coordinating with State enforcement to terrorize innocent families is not only illegal; it is inexcusable. It is time for the Federal Government to come clean and come clean now. Release the tapes, release the transcripts, stop the cover-up. The Constitution is superior to the arrogance of power. Thanks to my State reps, Barry Telford, Mark Homer, Chuck Hopson, they know that. They have learned that lesson. I wish the Republican power brokers in Washington, D.C. do the same thing.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, last September the U.S. Census Bureau released figures that showed that the number of Americans who do not have health insurance has increased to more than 41 million Americans. Of those, 60 percent are employed by small businesses. We know that a great number

of these small business owners do want to offer their employees health insurance coverage; but with health insurance costs rising 14.7 percent just in 2002 alone, they are struggling to meet this cost.

House Resolution 660, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, opens the door for small business owners, providing the chance to give their employees high-quality health insurance at an affordable price by allowing associations to form large regional or national groups that can purchase fully insured health insurance which would put growing businesses on a level playing field for larger corporations.

Those opposed to AHPs, as they are called, claim that they will allow "cherry picking" or selecting only employees that are young and/or healthy for coverage. In reality, this legislation prohibits an AHP from denying health insurance on the basis of health status. They must follow the same rules on portability, preexisting conditions, and nondiscrimination that large employers must follow.

This legislation also contains solvency provisions that protect employees against the risk of health claims. These health plans must certify through a qualified actuary that an AHP is financially sound.

To conclude, what businesses want is to offer health coverage to their workers. House Resolution 660 gives employers the ability to provide this coverage by allowing small businesses to band together as a trade association to become larger purchasers of health insurance. By saving small businesses, an estimated 15 to 30 percent, compared to the cost of purchasing coverage directly from an insurance company, associated health plans will give more Americans the health benefits they need to provide for themselves and for their families.

JOB-KILLER POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I came down here to talk about taxes, but let me first talk about Texas. All Americans must unite in the war against terrorism and we did that. We passed the PATRIOT Act. We provided resources for the Department of Homeland Security. But now we discover that the war on terrorism is a war against Democrats. This will divide America, and that is good for the terrorists. How many Americans may lose their lives because we cannot empower the Department of Homeland Security because it uses that power to pervert American democracy? Only an honest release of the tapes, only an honest approach will save the Department of Homeland Security and save only the Americans that it can save.

Now let us talk about taxes. The Bush recession continues. Republicans

continue to use their political power to adopt job-killer policies which means the Bush recession will continue to continue. The most obvious job-killer policy is the dividend exclusion provision included in the Senate tax bill passed last week. Every major tax provision has both positive and negative effects on our economy, and Republican after Republican has come down here to talk about the rather modest economic benefits of excluding dividends from taxation. Democrats, though, have not used our time to respond and to point out the much larger offsetting negative effects of this provision. The reason for that is that we Democrats have been so incensed at a policy that provides 50 percent of the tax benefits to 1 percent of the population and gives 1 percent of the benefits to 50 percent of the population.

We have been so incensed that the Republicans would launch a class war attack against working families. We have been so incensed that they would come up with a policy designed to allow the richest in America to buy the new \$350,000 Mercedes Benz, the Maybach, and pass the cost on to the sons and daughters of working Americans as they build the deficit. We have been so incensed about that that we forgot to mention, oh, by the way, it is a job killer.

Let us talk about that. We could of course drop currency from helicopters, \$25 billion a year, \$50 billion a year, and that would have some positive economic effects; but it would have a much larger negative economic effect because it would raise interest rates and it would deprive us of the opportunity to help States. They will have to discharge teachers, law enforcement officers, and others; and those folks will lose their jobs. So even helicopters dropping cash has some positive effect, but a larger offsetting effect.

The offsetting and negative effect of this dividend exclusion is worse because at least the people who catch the money from the helicopter will probably go out and spend it on necessities of life, whereas the dividend exclusion is aimed at the folks most likely to buy foreign luxury imports, which does not provide jobs for Americans.

The dividend exclusion was justified on the idea that it was going to build up corporate treasuries because people would invest in stock and then the corporations would go out and buy plants and equipment. This was proven to be a phony ruse because under pressure to bring down the price tag of the dividend exclusion, the White House has now written a version that obviously will not cause any additional corporate investment. What does that provision do? It provides half-tax exclusion for dividends paid in 2003; full exclusion for 2004, 2005, 2006, and then back to a full taxation of dividends starting in 2007 and future years.

What will that mean? First, all the dividends corporations were going to pay out this month and in the next 8

months will not be paid; so we will have a slump in expenditures by those who receive dividends. Why? Because they can wait until January 1 of next year, pay the dividend, and have it be completely tax exempt. So we start with the decline even in the amount of dividends paid, but come 2004 we will see huge dividend payments. That money comes out of corporate treasuries. It reduces the amount that corporations have available for investment of plant and equipment; and if they have any money after 2004, they will pay it all out in 2005, 2006. No corporate investment; huge dividends.

But it is argued that this dividend exclusion is going to encourage investment in stock. If it had been a permanent exclusion, maybe that was a possibility. A lot of people buy municipal bonds because they get tax-free income. But who would buy municipal bonds if their income was going to become fully taxable in just a few years? Who is going to buy corporate stock because they want dividend exclusion when the dividend exclusion is going to expire in just a few years? So there will be a huge outlay of corporate funds from corporate treasuries that will not be available to buy plant and equipment. But there will be no investment in corporations caused by this provision because nobody is going to buy a new issuance of stock if in just a few years we are going to be back to the old tax law.

The Bush recession continues. Job-killer policies like that contained in the Senate bill will ensure that the Bush recession will continue to continue.

A RISING SEA OF DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, in the next few days, Congress is going to pass another increase in the statutory debt limit, and it will be signed by the President. I want to talk about the rising sea of debt, and we have to be careful that we do not drown.

A few years of surpluses between 1998 and 2001, which were not really surpluses except by Washington standards, seems to have given us a false sense of security. Since then the situation has deteriorated very rapidly, with huge increases in spending; and now we face the most serious debt and overspending crisis in American history. The value of the dollar is going down because of the increasing debt and the tax obligation that our kids and our grandkids are going to pay is going up because of increased debt.

President Andrew Jackson paid off the Federal debt in 1835, retiring the last of the Revolutionary War bonds; however, the United States returned to borrowing which has now grown to levels that President Jackson could hard-

ly imagine. Starting at zero in 1835, it took more than a century for the debt to reach \$100 billion in 1943; \$100 billion in 1943. After 200 years of American history, the debt reached \$500 billion in 1976. Now we are projected to borrow more than \$500 billion every year, this year, next year, the year after. The debt stands at \$6.5 trillion today and will reach \$10 trillion at current borrowing rates before the end of the decade. The administration is now using gimmicks to pay our bills until Congress again increases the statutory debt limit.

The debt is not even the worst of it. The government unfunded liabilities are several times larger than the official public debt. These liabilities are promises that the government has made or obligations it has undertaken without setting aside any resources or a way to pay those debts. According to the Department of Treasury's latest financial report to the United States Government, we owe or can expect to owe \$57.8 billion to cover otherwise defaults on direct and guaranteed loans; \$55.8 billion on accounts payable across the government; \$1.86 trillion for government and military pensions and benefits; \$849 billion in other veterans benefits, mostly medical; \$273 billion for projected environmental cleanup from government activities; \$202 billion in miscellaneous liabilities. These are all OMB projections, and this is only the beginning. This is the least of it.

This still is not part of the unfunded liabilities which are Social Security and Medicare. It will cost \$9 trillion to pay promised Social Security benefits. Similarly, Medicare part A is expected to run \$5.13 trillion over expected taxes. Part B is another \$8.13 trillion.

□ 2015

Thus, the liabilities in just these three programs is about four times our current debt.

Further, this unfunded liability assumes the full repayment of all trust funds. Government has been borrowing from all of these other trust funds to afford the expenditures that have increased so dramatically over the last several years. If those trust funds are not paid, those amounts, which are really very small by comparison, will have to be added to the liability.

We have gotten to the sorry state of affairs through what I consider overspending and overpromising by Washington. Reelection votes are bought today in exchange for promises of benefits later, and the problem is that the country cannot afford all Washington is promising.

About 13 percent of the total Federal budget is now used to pay interest on the debt. If overspending continues and interest rates return to normal, we could easily see spending of the United States using one-quarter, one-fourth, of all of the total budget. A day of reckoning is coming sooner or later. If the government stays on its present

course, we will face the choice of much higher taxes or much reduced benefits and services.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Washington needs a new sense of urgency. We are promising too much, spending too much, and leaving future generations at risk. I have long pushed for spending restraints and necessary entitlement reform, including Social Security reform. It is time for those issues to come before the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LAMPSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INSIGHTFUL EXPLANATION OF TEXAS POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize a member of the Texas House from my district and my hometown of Denton, Texas.

Representative Myra Crownover has written what I consider to be the most insightful remarks regarding the recent lack of a quorum in the Texas House. Her remarks were written and carried in the Denton Record-Chronicle last weekend. I ask Members to listen to Representative Crownover in her own words.

"I would like to take this opportunity to explain what is at the heart of the battle between Texas House Republicans and Democrats.

"Though Republicans and Democrats debate and disagree on a number of issues each and every session, none is as arduous or contentious as redistricting. While most legislation concerns issues that cross party lines, such as children, health care or education, redistricting is simply about politics and elections. There is no bipartisan redistricting. There never has been, there never will be. It is the nature of the beast.

"Although the Legislature addressed congressional redistricting 2 years ago in the last legislative session, lawmakers could not agree on new lines, so a panel of three Federal judges did, and their map led to a 17-15 advantage for the Democrats. Rather than drawing a map that currently reflects the political landscape of Texas, the lines were tooled just enough to keep the map legal. There is no question that the current map meets the standards for redistricting spelled out in law.

"The argument for addressing the congressional maps this session rests in the fact that in the 2002 elections the GOP won every statewide race from the governor to the courts and took control over both houses of the State legislature for the first time since Reconstruction. Roughly 60 percent of the

State voted Republican during the last election cycle. The Legislature now has an obligation to pass a map that properly reflects the demographics and voting patterns of Texas.

"As stated previously, redistricting is a painful process, but it is also necessary. For the party in the minority, it is a difficult but important debate. It has been for years. However, the minority this session chose to walk away from the debate and crossed a line that should never be crossed. The rules of the House relating to a quorum were created to maintain a balance, protecting both the majority and the minority parties. This rule has been abused and a harmful precedent has been set. If 51 members dislike a piece of legislation, they may simply walk away. No debate. No vote. No representation.

"There will always be a majority and a minority. We will continue to redistrict State and congressional maps for decades to come. Such emotionally charged issues are simply part of the process, and because of this, rules and respect for the rules are required. Without them, the system breaks down. Not just for the 150 Members of the Texas House, but for every citizen of Texas."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MILESTONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor this evening to mark the fact that we now have 100 cosponsors of House Resolution 193, a bill reaffirming support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This legislation seeks to educate on the horrors of the crimes against humanity of genocide and, by educating, helping to prevent genocide from happening again. It is common knowledge that history repeats itself, and some of the worst crimes against humanity are no exception to this rule.

Mr. Speaker, as the cochair and founder of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I have been involved in genocide recognition efforts for the past decade. The caucus is 125 members strong and has been instrumental in the education of my colleagues on the issue of Armenian genocide. We have organized floor speeches every year on April 24, we have circulated a yearly letter asking the President to use the word "genocide" in his yearly April 24 address, and, most importantly, we were very close in the year 2000 in passing legislation officially recognizing the Armenian genocide.

That resolution in 2000 did not come to the House floor for a vote due to a decision by the leadership. If it were not for that decision, the legislation would have passed overwhelmingly, in my opinion.

As I mentioned, the Armenian Caucus sends a yearly letter to the President asking him to use the word "genocide" in his yearly April 24 commemoration. President Bush, like President Clinton before him, made a campaign promise to give the Armenian genocide its due recognition, but then they both recanted. Both presidents avoided the use of the word "genocide" in their statements.

This year, 168 Members of Congress, well over one-third of the total number of Members serving, asked President Bush to use the word "genocide" last month. He instead characterized the worst crime ever to befall the Armenian people as a "great calamity." I must say I reject this characterization as simplistic and also demeaning, and I hope my colleagues in the House will do the same. If they do, they have the chance to act by joining the 100 Members who have signed on to H.R. 193 and take a stand to properly recognize the worst crimes against humanity.

I use the plural "crimes," because this legislation is not only about the Armenians. In the bill it states, "the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act marked a principal stand by the United States against the crime of genocide and an important step towards ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide and the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda, among others, will be used to help prevent future genocides."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have not come together as a world community to eradicate the horrific crime of systematic destruction of an entire people. Every generation in the last 100 years has seen the brutal realities of genocide, but none have fully learned from it. Passing House Resolution 193, in my opinion, will help to educate and hopefully help to stop the crime of genocide in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that we have obtained cosponsors that will bear great credence to this bill. H.R. 193 is currently under consideration in the Committee on the Judiciary, with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) on as cosponsors. Also among the 100 cosponsors are the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and the former minority leader and presidential candidate, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT). All of my colleagues on a bipartisan basis will be instrumental in passing this bill, but it is nice to see some early support from a very diverse group of Members on a bipartisan basis.

The title of House Resolution 193 includes the word "genocide," but the heart of the bill is about humanity. It takes humanity to overcome the ignorance that spurs the evil crime of genocide, learning about another culture instead of fearing it. It takes humanity to bridge the gap of hate that exists between a warring people.

We have seen this work in the last century. One of the worst crimes ever to be committed, the Holocaust against the Jews, is the best example of how some good can come from a terrible evil. At the end of World War II, Germany was vanquished as a Nation and its citizens were forced to accept the reality of what Hitler had done. The fact is, Germans as a people accepted that something horrific had taken place, and they accepted it. Last year, the Holocaust Museum in Berlin became a reality. Sixty years after the Holocaust, peace was made where war had begun.

The lessons of the relationship of the Jewish and German people should be applied to the rest of the victims and perpetrators of the crime of genocide all around the world. This is especially true, Mr. Speaker, in Armenia and Turkey. It has been 88 years since the beginning of the genocide, and after 33 U.S. State legislatures, over a dozen governments around the globe and vast documentation in our national archives, the Turkish government still will not recognize the Armenian genocide. They have instead established a deliberate campaign of revisionist history to try to commit the last act of genocide, the destruction of culture and history.

I ask that the Turkish government give up its futile effort and for my colleagues to join me in recognizing the worst crimes against humanity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROHRABACHER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STENHOLM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINOJOSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GONZALEZ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE LARRY COMBEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for

60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, over the next hour we will be paying tribute to our colleague and friend, Representative LARRY COMBEST, who announced in November of 2002 that he was retiring from Congress at the end of this month.

It is a real privilege and honor for me to participate in this special order, because LARRY has been a friend and a mentor to me for more than 10 years now since I first became a Member of the House and joined the House Committee on Agriculture. He served as our chairman for 4 years. He has very graciously traveled to my district to meet with my farmers and community leaders and talk about matters of concern to them and has truly been a great help to many of us here in the Congress.

LARRY COMBEST has also faithfully served his own constituents, his home State of Texas and his country, for the past 18 years.

His greatest legislative accomplishment lies in his shepherding through of the landmark 2002 Farm Bill, which President Bush signed into law last year. He and other members of the committee began work on the bill 3 years ago when the agriculture community was in the throes of a severe economic depression. Under LARRY'S leadership, the farm bill was eventually signed into law, reflecting his goal of providing a dependable safety net that farmers could rely on when tough economic times arise, as they inevitably will.

President Dwight Eisenhower once remarked, "Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you are 1,000 miles from the cornfield."

LARRY understood the fundamental concept that legislators in Washington cannot craft effective farm policy if they are not in touch with the day-to-day struggles of rural America. With this in mind, the Committee on Agriculture, under LARRY'S leadership, held 10 field hearings across the country before actually sitting down to craft the farm bill. They drew high attendance and over 200 witnesses.

For his tireless work on behalf of the farm community, he received countless accolades, among them the Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturalist Award for Public Service, the Lubbock Area Foundation Hero of the Year Award, and the Legislator of the Year from the National Association of Farm Service Agency Employees.

While LARRY was a consistent voice for agriculture, his work in Congress

did not end there. He is a senior Member of the Committee on Small Business, where he has earned a reputation as a fiscally responsible Member of Congress who serves as a reliable steward of taxpayer money.

□ 2030

As evidence of this commitment, his first day in Congress he cosponsored the balanced budget amendment. He has also been a leader on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and has lent previous experience in the military affairs and in intelligence matters to the Congress, and that has also been widely recognized and acknowledged.

In recognition of his efforts, he has been the recipient of many recent awards, including the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Service Award, Leader of the Year in Service to Agriculture by Progressive Farmer Magazine, the Independent Bankers Association of Texas 2002 Trailblazer Award, and the Heritage of Odessa Foundation's 2002 Award for Excellence in Community Service in Government.

Additionally, each year the National Federation of Independent Businesses recognizes LARRY as a guardian of small business, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has consistently honored him with their Prestigious Spirit of Enterprise Award.

In addition to his abundant legislative accomplishments, LARRY remained attentive to the needs of his constituents, never forgetting where he came from and who sent him here. His office has an excellent reputation for case work which flowed from his enthusiastic spirit of service. Voters recognized this about LARRY, expressing their confidence in his representation by ever-increasing electoral margins.

I am honored to follow him as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and am committed to ensuring that the farm bill that he guided through Congress is implemented according to its original intent. He has been a valued colleague.

After nearly 2 decades of distinguished public service, it is an understatement to say that LARRY COMBEST can return home with his head held high. But those who know him doubt that will happen; for, in spite of all that he has accomplished, LARRY has maintained his humility, a character trait which is increasingly rare in this city.

I know he is anxious to return to west Texas, to his friends and family; and we wish him and his wife, Sharon, all of the best. His consistent voice on behalf of rural America will be terribly missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture who has served long in this body and served the entire time the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) served.

Mr. STENHOLM. I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is with very mixed emotions that I join in tonight's Special Order to recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) on his departure from the halls of Congress. I say mixed emotions because, while it is more than fitting for the House to recognize him for his many years of service to this body, both as a staff member and as a Representative, I am sorry to see the departure of a colleague, a neighbor, and a friend.

Many times over the past two Congresses I would, sometime during my speech, say, well, at first it was the first Congress in the history of our Nation, then it was the second, this would have been the third Congress in which one State, Texas, had the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture. At no time in our history has this ever happened. Not only were we from the same State, but we were neighbors and we were friends.

That is the spirit in which I come tonight. Since LARRY came to Congress in 1985, we have had many occasions to work together for the mutual benefit of Texas, our Nation, and particularly our Nation's agriculture.

In fact, it was a year ago this month that the 2002 farm bill was enacted into law, and about a year and a half of the time and effort of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) went into writing that bill. It was a collaborative effort, very typical of the bipartisan manner for which the Committee on Agriculture is recognized.

As much as I would have enjoyed being the chairman during that period of time, that was not to be; but LARRY made sure that, as ranking member, I was a full participant throughout the legislative process, and I greatly appreciated the opportunity of riding shotgun and working side by side with him in that endeavor.

I do not believe it would be an overstatement tonight to say that without LARRY'S devoted work on that farm bill in a bipartisan way, it would not have become law. I think that is a very fair and accurate statement. Many times we might stretch it a little bit; but knowing as much about the inner workings of what happened in that bill, without the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST), we would not have gotten it done. I think the colleagues on the gentleman's side of the aisle agree and those on my side agree.

LARRY'S departure from the House of Representatives marks the end of a very distinguished record of service to the folks of the 19th Congressional District of Texas. LARRY throughout this time has been a man of great character and sound judgment who has served his constituents well. I personally will miss his company, his counsel, and the true spirit of bipartisanship with which he conducted himself throughout his tenure in Congress.

Sadly, such bipartisanship and good will has increasingly become a rare

commodity in the halls of Congress, but not on the House Committee on Agriculture.

LARRY, Cindy and I wish you and Sharon all the best as you embark upon a new chapter in your lives. I hope and trust there will be many more occasions for our paths to cross in the future. It has truly been a pleasure to work with you. We will miss you; but we know, suspect highly, that those paths will cross again in some constructive way. Good luck and God speed to you and Sharon.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman.

It is my pleasure to recognize the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker. I imagine that most of us in this House particularly admire or respect someone for various reasons: their use of power, their talent in persuasion, their deep commitment to a cause or an issue. I admire LARRY COMBEST because he has the right balance of things. He knows what is really important in politics and in life. He maintains his dignity, his honesty, and his commitment while giving us his best for nearly 20 years.

He served this Nation and the State of Texas in an extraordinary way in standing firm for the farmers of this country, for rural America, and for business interests. LARRY's quiet and often serious demeanor fooled me for a while, but we often get to really know each other in this House either by working on a particular issue together or by traveling together. That is how I got to know LARRY and his wonderful wife, Sharon. You don't really know LARRY until you have experienced the love and closeness that LARRY and Sharon share.

This Congressman from west Texas has much to be proud of; but LARRY would probably say, I am just doing my job. I will miss LARRY in this Congress, we all will, but we could not do better than to pattern our service after his.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS).

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who crafted and delivered a strong farm bill to the farmers of the Twelfth Congressional District of Georgia.

Although I serve on the Committee on Agriculture now, I did not have the opportunity to serve on the committee under the leadership of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST). I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) for his support for the Georgia farmers that I now represent, and for his commitment to the benefit of American agriculture.

In his 4 years as chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) worked to improve Federal risk-management programs and Federal farm policy. His work went beyond that of the livelihoods of farmers. He worked to improve rural infrastruc-

ture, university research, broadband access, child nutrition, conservation efforts, and even food to aid other countries.

Mr. Speaker, LARRY COMBEST is well respected among the farmers I represent. His masterpiece, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, is farm policy that my producers support. The legacy of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) will be remembered and appreciated for years to come.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Imagine for a moment the late 1990s where many farmers were going broke. There were auctions, and farmers had to sell out farms that had been in their family for generations.

Imagine running for reelection in 1998, being reelected, and being asked to serve as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture to pass a new farm bill to try to keep a viable agriculture in the United States, a huge challenge. Every commodity group is coming forward to suggest that they should have more money from the Federal Government, but being chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, LARRY COMBEST was still under pressure to limit total spending.

I think it should be repeated that where we ended up on the subsidies for agriculture were actually less under this farm bill that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) guided through. Subsidies for farmers ended up less than what they were for the prior 3 years.

LARRY COMBEST came to Congress as a leader in Texas agriculture. He came with the knowledge of how farm programs work. I had my disagreements with some of the provisions of the farm bill, like I suspect every member of the Committee on Agriculture might have written it a little bit differently if they had their personal desires. But what we ended up with is a help for American agriculture, faced with a situation of challenging subsidies in a world atmosphere. Let me give a couple of examples.

Europe, for example, subsidizes their farmers five times as much as we subsidize our farmers. Japan subsidizes their farmers between 20 and 25 percent as much as we subsidize our farmers. We ended up with a farm bill that is going to help assure, at least, that we have a strong, viable agriculture in the United States.

On LARRY COMBEST's retirement, I wish him Godspeed and thanks for the effort.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman.

It is my pleasure to recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia, the chairman, for taking this time to

pay tribute to our departing Member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

Mr. Speaker, my connections with LARRY go back some distance. We were raised in towns about 30 miles apart in the Texas panhandle and our families knew each other, but I really got to know him when I went to work for him as his administrative assistant in 1985, shortly after he was first elected to Congress.

Of course, LARRY was not just any freshman Congressman. He had worked for Senator John Tower and came to Congress with that background, experience, and network all working for him. Needless to say, I learned a lot and benefited tremendously from my time as part of the Combest team.

For the last 8½ years, LARRY and I have represented adjoining districts, and even shared in the representation of several cities and counties. I have continued to learn from him and to benefit from our work together.

Mr. Speaker, LARRY COMBEST's public record of accomplishment is well known in Washington and in Texas. From leadership positions, such as chairman of the select Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and then chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, he has made a bright mark on the public policy agenda of the last decade.

The farm bill, which he shepherded through the 107th Congress, was landmark legislation, important not just to agriculture but to the country's economy and to the health and standard of living of all Americans.

But along the way, as he was leaving his mark on public policy for the Nation, he was providing outstanding representation to the people of the 19th Congressional District of Texas. Every day he was their advocate. Every day he was their voice. Every day he was their biggest fan.

Of course, none of us do this job alone. Other than the handicap of a certain AA in the middle of the 1980s, LARRY has been fortunate to have an outstanding group of dedicated public servants assisting him. And I think it is important to mention those that have been with LARRY nearly 20 years: Lynn Cowart, Patti Murphy, Jenny Welch, Mary Whistler, Jay Ibarra, Jimmy Clark.

Any Member of the House or Senate would be fortunate indeed to have such dedicated, loyal, capable staff members.

In addition, LARRY has been fortunate to have outstanding help on the political side. Jane Anne Stinnett has been the director of LARRY's team since the beginning of his political career. I have never met anyone who works harder or cares more in such a selfless way. She is a remarkable lady, and it is a combination of LARRY's good fortune and good judgment that led to Jane Anne playing a key role in LARRY's political and public life for 20 years.

Lisa Nowlin has also played an important part in LARRY'S political world, as has Ken Towery. Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for me to catalog the career and contributions of Ken Towery, from Pulitzer Prize winner to chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Among other things, he has helped guide the tremendously successful political career of LARRY COMBEST, among others.

It is said that first-rate people hire first-rate people, while second-rate people hire third-rate people. If that is true, LARRY COMBEST ranks at the top because he has truly had first-rate people working with him throughout his career.

□ 2045

Finally, one cannot speak about LARRY COMBEST without acknowledging the central role played by his wife, Sharon. Their partnership made all of LARRY'S other accomplishments possible.

Mr. Speaker, LARRY COMBEST has been a caring mentor, an outstanding representative, a thoughtful leader and a good friend. Like so many other Members and friends, I will miss having him around Washington, but I will also know that his impact on the lives of so many people in Texas and throughout the Nation will last for many years to come. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his excellent statement.

At this time I am pleased to recognize the chairman of the department operations, oversight, nutrition, forestry, dairy, et cetera, et cetera, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I am so honored to be here tonight to pay tribute to our friend, LARRY COMBEST. A lot has already been said, and I do not want to be redundant and repeat some of the things that have been said, but I would like to mention a couple of things.

One is that he is probably one of the best dressers in the U.S. Congress. I have been with him at meetings with farmers, and he is always appropriately but the best dressed person there. And I think anybody who knows LARRY knows that I am saying exactly the truth.

The other thing I should mention about LARRY is the first time I ever met him was for a retreat for Republicans at some god-awful Xerox center about 50 miles west of here. It was my first chance to spend any time with LARRY, and the one thing that was very obvious to me in our first real meeting and discussion, he is an incredibly good listener. Now, in this town that is a quality that is not developed in many of us, not the way it should be. But LARRY is an amazing listener. He listens to what people have to say, and it

is reflected in the success that he has had in his congressional career.

He came from west Texas. The district that he represents is one of the biggest energy-producing districts in the country, and yet he took the time to listen to our farmers and to other people on the importance of biofuels and ethynyl and biodiesel and came to the conclusion that it made an awful lot of sense long term for our energy policy. He did not put his own parochial interests above what was in the best interests of American agriculture.

So much has already been said, but it was because of that deep feeling that he was able to go to the Committee on the Budget a few years ago and get an unprecedented \$73.5 billion out of the fiscal year 2001 budget so that we could create that farm bill. And he taught us so much about what it takes to make a farm bill, but it was his character that pushed it all the way through, and I mean that. Because passing a farm bill is much tougher than I ever thought. What he did was he demonstrated one of those things that we need to learn more about here in Washington and that is he was firm on principle but flexible on policy; and, ultimately, it was his vision of this farm bill that really won the day.

Now, LARRY, we are going to miss you a lot. I am going to miss you more than you can even imagine. We will miss you a lot more than you will miss us. Certainly you deserve a little respite from this rat race. I can only say that I hope that you will not forget us rats.

Thank you very much and God bless you.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research and a whole host of other responsibilities.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on the last day of this month this body will lose a Member who has for almost 18½ years been a critical part of several committees. The Committee on Small Business has been noted, serving as chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. But for me personally his chairmanship of the House Committee on Agriculture probably provides me with my greatest memories and has had the most tremendous impacts on my legislative judgment, certainly on my constituents in Oklahoma.

I think back to 1996 when, in the heat of debate, at one of the most critical points of that farm bill, of sitting in a room with the then-Speaker and the late Bill Emerson and the soon-to-be-Chairman COMBEST as we discussed agriculture and southern crops and watching LARRY make quite clear what the needs were of his constituents and what he felt like the needs were for agriculture in the United States and changing the course of the farm bill that day.

Then in 2002 under his chairmanship and leadership with the gavel, setting

about as he said at the time to go forth and listen to our farmers, yes, to listen to the experts and, yes, to listen to all the academic input, but to create a farm bill for the producers, a farm bill based on the things that they thought should be in a farm bill. Many at the time thought it was a pretty amazing concept, not always the way things are done in Washington, D.C. But, lo and behold, hearings across the country, hearings beyond belief here in the Nation's Capital, and the result of that was an amazing farm bill.

And, oh, yes, the chairman's patience in conference committee, dealing with the, shall we say, other side of the building and dealing with some of our own membership, patience that would make Job extremely proud. And the result of that was a farm bill that locked in a tremendous amount of resources that, had we dug around that farm bill in 2003, would not have been there. Yes, a farm bill based on what our neighbors back home told us they wanted, crafted in a way that could build almost two-thirds majorities in both the House and the Senate placed on the books.

But, ultimately, I think when LARRY and Sharon return home to west Texas, the final observation will be that they have been good servants of their constituents; and that is what it is all about, representing those folks back home to the best of your ability in a way that they would be proud of.

That, Mr. Chairman, you have accomplished. That is a goal I think we should all work towards.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

At this time it is my pleasure to recognize the chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I am delighted to be here. It is an honor to have served in this Congress these last 7 years with the gentleman from the 19th District of Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress I knew it was important to me to be associated with people who understood and cared about agriculture and who cared about farmers and ranchers of America; and it was my honor to become acquainted with Chairman COMBEST. He has been a role model and mentor for me since that time of my arrival 7 years ago.

Those of us who represent agriculture in the House of Representatives are a minority. There are not enough of us, and what it takes is people who go beyond their numbers, who more than 1 out of 435 can make a difference. And the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) has done that. He has done that because he is knowledgeable and understands the issues. It is in his blood. That is where he comes from. It is who he is. Agriculture, farming and ranching is LARRY COMBEST.

It is because he is a leader, because he cares about using that information

and knowledge on behalf of those engaged in everyday activities trying to earn a living on the farms and ranches of America.

His leadership in the Committee on Agriculture is extraordinary. It is just something that we have relied upon. As we have worked our way through a farm bill in this last Congress, it is clear to me that because of his leadership things happened. He has a commitment to what he believes in, and he believes in farmers and ranchers of America. He wants to see our family farms survive and prosper. He wants that way of life to continue. He has a commitment to serving his constituents and helping American agriculture be here today and tomorrow.

And, perhaps most importantly, he has integrity. I have never known anyone who I could trust more than LARRY COMBEST. His word can be taken for what it was, his word. What he said is what he meant. His advice was honestly given. I have never known him to mislead anyone. And it was that character and that integrity that made it possible for us to do things in agriculture on this House floor because people trusted him, they respected him, and they honored what he was about.

As he returns home to Texas, it is with some sadness that we see my friend LARRY COMBEST leave. We all invest in other people in this place. Oftentimes I suppose we spend too much time worrying about things that are not so important. But the thing that is important is the relationships, friendships, and understandings that we have with other Members of Congress; and I consider it a high honor to have been associated with LARRY COMBEST during his term as a Member of Congress.

His relationships with other Members of the House will not end with his departure. His friendship with President Bush has really been beneficial to those of us who care about rural America, and we look forward to his continued involvement in issues that matter to us and to farmers and ranchers across the country.

Public service is something that we all talk about, something that we engage in as Members of Congress, but we all have a lot to learn from LARRY COMBEST who exemplifies the role of a true public servant, who did what he thought was right, who fought the fight and made a difference on behalf of the people of Texas and on behalf of the people of America.

Mr. Speaker, I wish LARRY and Sharon the absolute best in their future years. I thank them both for their friendship. I honor and respect them, and I hope the fish bite. Thank you, LARRY.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my pleasure to recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, like many others, proud of our colleague and chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, LARRY

COMBEST. They say that you make a living by what you get but you make a life by what you give, and by that measure LARRY COMBEST has enjoyed a very rich life. He has given back so much to his community, to our State of Texas, and, of course, to the Nation he loves so much.

At times like this it is tempting, I think, to focus on his achievements because there are so many ways, so many ways he has made a difference for the better in this country. But I think you need to be most impressed by LARRY COMBEST's attributes, his qualities as a man.

He has so much integrity, remarkable amount of integrity. He is so thoughtful about the issues. He does his homework so much. He is like the rural community he represents, incredibly hard working. His advice truly is honest. And he not only has principles and values, he lives his principles and he lives his values each day. He is a wonderful role model for younger Members of Congress, for his colleagues, his peers, for all who have worked with him. He is just a remarkable man.

And as much as we are going to miss him, the fact is we are overjoyed that he and Sharon will be sharing their time together. They have given so much back to America. We are anxious to give them time together. God bless.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I thank all of those who participated in this today, and I wonder if I might prevail upon the man of the hour to say a few words to us himself.

A lot has been mentioned about the possibility that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) might spend some time fishing in the next few months. That will be a well-deserved recreation for he and his wife, Sharon. But I find it especially refreshing, given that he represents a district that includes, as I understand it, the town of no trees, and I do not think he has much by the way of national forestland. So I am glad he will get the opportunity to enjoy it all across the country.

So at this time I am pleased to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST), the former chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and my friend.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I am touched deeply by the gentleman's comments and the fact that you will take this special order to do this. One never expects to find themselves in this position, and we have seen it over the years as others make their departures, and you never know exactly how it feels until that time comes for yourself. But I appreciate so much the gentleman's kind words opening this and those of my friends and my colleagues that had very kind things to say.

It is the friendships, I think, that one can develop here that is important. It is not just the work. It is the friendships that you can develop and the growth and the years that you can watch occur to your colleagues and to your friends and to your staff.

I appreciate so much the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) mentioning so many people that have been involved in the making of the success of the office, not my success, but the success of the office that the people of the 19th District through 10 elections gave us the opportunity to sit in because they are important. He knows them well. As he mentioned, as a former chief of staff, he is one of those that should definitely be mentioned when you think about hiring the best. You all see that every day in the work that he continues and that he does in this House, his thoughtfulness, his integrity, his intelligence, his character.

Sharon and I fondly remember watching him and his now-wife and mother of their children when they were dating and attending their wedding and watching Mary Kemp and Will as they grew up and as they were born and as they have turned into young adults; and they are dear, dear friends and very dear in our hearts.

□ 2100

And to others, I am just sorry that when GIL GUTKNECHT was here we did not have a little Rodney Dangerfield episode. I encourage any of my colleagues who have never had the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) do Rodney Dangerfield that it is worth your time.

To, obviously, all of those who put in the hard work on the committee and those who came tonight that were not part of the committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) are dear Texas friends for coming and sharing with us. They are both dear, dear friends, dear people to us, and their families.

That will be the thing, I suppose, more than anything that is missed. It has been a wonderful ending to a career that we have seen an opportunity to visit with a lot of groups. I always find that the person whose name is on the letterhead is the one who gets the award or the one who gets the acclaim, but certainly not the one that solely is responsible for any of the work that is done. I think back to the most recent thing, of course that has been the farm bill, but back to the years on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a wonderful dedicated staff of public servants. Most of their work no one will ever know.

We wrote a piece of work over a 2-year period of time that was called IC-21, the Intelligence Community for the 21st Century, and it created a lot of turf battles. It did not get far, but I told the staff as that was completed that the good news was and the thing they could rest in was that someday the intelligence community would look like that product. And following September 11, it is becoming to look more like it, because it was a work in what should be done.

Certainly the most recent effort, the farm bill, was a tremendous dedication

by a lot of people. The committee and all of the members of the committee were so dedicated to producing a product and laying aside any partisan bickering and certainly laying aside even parochial interest for the better of the whole. And it was a success. It was something that took a lot of work.

I have often said to those groups that I have had a chance to meet with that I only wish that they knew the work that was put in by the committee staff. It is something they will never have an appreciation of, the time that they spend away from family; literally the nights that were spent on the floor, on couches, in chairs, wherever they could grab a quick nap, wherever they could get a little rest and then plod on from there. They never quit. They never gave up. They did it with wonderful smiling faces. American agriculture, I think, has never seen such a capable staff assembled, nor do I suspect they will ever see one that is more capable ever assembled in the future. They did such great work.

Bill O'Connor, chief of staff, who was in and around the committee nearly 20 years ago when I started, and who knows a great deal about the institution, about agriculture, and about the process. And it was many, many long hard hours under his leadership and direction that that staff continued to work. And everyone worked together. Tom Sell, who was the deputy chief of staff, one of the great young men that I have gotten to know over the years. It does not hurt also that his son and I share the same birthday. Noah and GIL GUTKNECHT and I have the same birthday, and it is something we will obviously always remember.

I could tell a story about every member of that staff and the work that they put into the end product that became the farm bill. There were some, Alan Mackey, who literally was so wracked with pain that it was difficult at times for him to even get out of bed, but was always there, every day, long, long hours every day. Dr. Elizabeth Parker was undergoing chemo at the time and set a new style for women's hair fashions in the Committee on Agriculture. She was there every day. Debbie Smith, whose home was less than a quarter of a mile away from those hit by a tornado, spent 3 days up here and never went home to see how things were because it was at a critical time here.

So many others on both the majority and the minority. There was an effort put into this in a bipartisan fashion, as my dear, dear friend CHARLIE STENHOLM said that was not for politics but for the good of the cause of American agriculture.

There are so many people over the years that I could spend a lot longer than any of my colleagues want to spend mentioning the staff and the work they do. They make us look awfully good. All of us know that. They are the ones that produce the work that really makes a difference, that

keep the fires burning. I will be very remiss in not mentioning every one of them, and I could, and you are all in my thoughts; but I will particularly mention Lynn and Patty, who were there the day the door opened and will be there the day the lights are turned out, and have just kept things going, and so many in the district.

It has reminded me a great deal over the past several months of a particular translation from Corinthians that says, "What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God how can anyone boast as having accomplished anything on their own?" And I think we have to always recognize there are a lot of others, including much more powerful than we, who direct our lives and who direct the things that we do.

And I will just close with this, Mr. Speaker, again giving my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, but saving the best for last, I want to thank Sharon. This is, as all my colleagues know, a family effort. This is not something we, anyone, does alone. It takes a tremendous amount of sacrifice and dedication on the part of our spouses. Mine is extra special.

I have very fond memories of this place, but one of the things that she and I have talked about is that we hope that we have spent our last night apart, as so many nights we spend apart from our families when we are in Congress. And to those of you who we will miss greatly not being here, the fact that 24 hours of every day I will spend with her, I can take missing you all a little bit. We are looking very forward to the next phase in our lives, spending it together.

It was quite ironic, I think, when we made the announcement publicly that we were going to make this move. We just simply could not quit. Everyone was just so interested, particularly the media, about what was wrong. There has to be a problem. You cannot just walk away from this. And I think she summed it up quite well when she said, isn't it really sad that people do not think you can leave that to spend more time with your wife? And it is, I guess, if people think that with all of the wonderful opportunities that we have here, that that is more important to us than those that we care about.

And so we are looking forward to this next phase, I will assure you, as much as we were 18½ years ago when we came here preparing for this phase; but it will be done in a different setting. We intend to continue in our service. It will be in an unpaid capacity, and it will be done out of dedication and love for each other and for people. But this has been a wonderful opportunity, and I am proud of the accomplishments that this House has made over the years and that I have been able to just sit here and be a part of it.

We will continue to watch you occasionally, to see how you are doing. But come about middle of the summer, when it is really hot and humid here,

we will be somewhere under the cool trees in the mountains of Colorado, maybe spending enough time there that I could almost become a constituent of my good friend Governor Bill Owens. We will not be there quite that long, we will always have a home in our beloved Texas, but we are looking forward to that adventure in our lives.

So next week, when you are out doing your Memorial Day parades, we are going to start the fishing trip. Thank you very much.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for sharing those wonderful remarks with us, and I thank him also for sharing nearly 2 decades of his life with the American people and with all of us here in the Congress. We thank Sharon for sharing you with us because it has been a blessing for all of us. So we wish you the best.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that we have a large contingent of staff members of the House Committee on Agriculture and other friends and supporters of LARRY in the gallery. I mentioned earlier that the RECORD will remain open for an additional 5 days for Members to submit statements for the RECORD, and a number already have.

I would also note that the vice chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. EVERETT), have submitted statements for the RECORD, and I know others have been submitted and will be in the coming days because, LARRY, many of us want to let you know how highly we regard you and we wish you happy trails and abundant streams. May God abundantly bless you and Sharon in all of your future travels.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). The Chair will remind all Members not to refer to occupants of the gallery.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, LARRY COMBEST is a good friend. I will miss him and his wife Sharon very much.

All of his friends who remain in the House of Representatives wish him happiness in his new endeavors.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee in saying farewell to an old friend and statesman, retiring Congressman LARRY COMBEST of Texas.

I've known LARRY since I first came to Congress and joined the Agriculture Committee in 1993 and I have the utmost respect for his continual dedication to the Nation and our farmers and ranchers.

LARRY COMBEST's long and distinguished career has included the chairmanships of the

House Intelligence and Agriculture committees. I had the pleasure of working side by side with Chairman COMBEST as he forged the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

From holding ten historic nationwide Agriculture Committee field hearings, one of which he conducted in my state of Alabama, to personally securing a \$73.5 billion funding commitment from the House leadership for the new Farm Bill, LARRY COMBEST was largely responsible for the successful passage of the landmark legislation for farmers and ranchers.

Chairman COMBEST's determination made it possible for the Committee to write a bipartisan, effective bill in a relatively short time and ensure its ultimate passage into law. This legislation restored a much-needed safety net to production agriculture that has been missing for too long. And when agriculture funding was under attack earlier this year, LARRY COMBEST once again stood up for farmers by standing fast against harmful proposed budget cuts.

As we in the House say goodbye to LARRY, I thank him for his service to America and wish he and his wife Sharon the very best as they pursue a future life outside of Washington.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Honorable LARRY COMBEST as he completes his final three weeks serving as a Congressman in the United States House of Representatives. In addition to representing the 19th congressional district of Texas for the past 20 years, Representative COMBEST has served the entire U.S. agriculture community as Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. His dedication to his country, his constituents and American agriculture should not go unrecognized.

I commend Representative COMBEST for his hard work and fine leadership while serving as Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Although I was elected to Congress in 2000 and only served under his leadership on the Committee for one term, I was honored to do so. Throughout the 107th Congress, Chairman COMBEST was diligent in his efforts to improve farm programs and to ensure the future of agriculture in America. Due in large part to his relentless hours of hard work and outstanding leadership, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush. I applaud Representative COMBEST for the strides he made to strengthen agriculture in the United States.

Congressman COMBEST has certainly contributed greatly to our nation and to our agriculture community, and I thank him for all of his efforts and congratulate him on his accomplishments while serving in the United States Congress.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Congressman LARRY COMBEST for more than 18 years of dedicated service to the 19th District of Texas.

As a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, I have appreciated his leadership as the former chairman and his genuine desire to pass sound legislation for America's farmers and ranchers.

LARRY took an approach to crafting the 2002 farm bill that no other legislator took before—he began holding hearings around the country as well as in Washington, listening to the pro-

ducers affected by farm policy, asking for concrete ideas and proposals which helped the Committee develop a farm bill that met the needs of our agriculture industry.

His ability to work in a fair bipartisan manner allowed the committee to establish a bill that was balanced and supported by members representing many regions of the United States.

Throughout the entire process, his tireless efforts did not go unnoticed by his colleagues or America's agriculture sector.

When I go home to North Carolina, I hear from my own farmers how much the farm bill has helped their families stay on the farm, and because of the leadership that LARRY provided, I know my producers have a safety net that they can count on.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve with LARRY and I wish him and his family the best in the future.

His leadership will be missed but certainly his accomplishments and all of his efforts will not be forgotten.

It is again my pleasure to honor congressman LARRY COMBEST for a job well done. He is a great statesman and trusted friend.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the House Agriculture Committee, I would like to pay tribute to Representative LARRY COMBEST, who has announced his intention to retire at the end of May. During his ten terms in Congress, LARRY COMBEST has earned a reputation of being a friend of American Agriculture. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Representative COMBEST always worked in a fair and bipartisan manner to insure that all sides had an opportunity to make their voices heard. This was especially true when the Agriculture Committee developed what eventually became the 2002 Farm Bill. In order to hear from all interested parties, Chairman COMBEST held extensive hearings throughout the country, including one in my hometown of Peoria, Illinois. I believe that this level of inclusiveness was a major factor in Congress passing a Farm Bill that addresses the needs of America's farmers and ranchers.

Representative COMBEST's mark on this Chamber will not only be found in the work he has done for our Nation's farmers and ranchers. Representative COMBEST also served with distinction as Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. While I did not have the privilege of serving under his Chairmanship, as a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I know that his legacy of bipartisanship and integrity remains.

During his tenure in Congress, Representative COMBEST always worked for the interest of his constituents, his State, his country, and the House of Representatives. Knowing that actions speak louder than words, Representative COMBEST joined me as co-chair of the House Bipartisan Retreat Committee to help instill civility and bipartisanship to the proceedings of Congress.

Representative COMBEST will be sorely missed.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Walter Lippmann stated, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind in other men the conviction and will to carry on." Congressman LARRY COMBEST leaves not only conviction and will for others to follow but also an example of representational leadership. His unique style of leadership has brought about positive change for his

constituency, for the state of Texas, and for each position he has held as a member of Congress.

Serving as only the third Representative in history from the 19th Texas Congressional District, Congressman COMBEST has honored the statesmen who preceded him in office. Always accessible and a constant voice for the people, his guiding strength and influence have become standard signatures for his work in Congress, including the drafting of the 2002 Farm Bill, the advocacy of medical and scientific advances through Texas Tech University initiatives, and promotion of the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

Congressman COMBEST leaves behind the conviction to distinguish the need of the people from the will of the people and the courage to carry on with the good of the people.

He is a trusted colleague and a proven leader. Congressman LARRY COMBEST will be missed.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order, recognizing Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the significance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The push for designating an APA Heritage Month started 26 years ago by visionary APA community leaders and also was led from this House by retired Congressman Robert Horton of New York and the current Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta.

This year's Heritage Month theme, a Salute to Liberty, is an especially timely theme as our Nation is faced with conflict and tension. We must remember that in the fight to protect our national security, we must also preserve our civil liberties and individual rights. During this month, it is also imperative that we utilize this opportunity to reflect upon and understand our past so we can successfully build for our future. This is a moment of teaching and learning. There have been many histories of Asian Pacific Americans in this country, Mr. Speaker, their origins, their barriers, the barriers that they have overcome in the pursuit to seek the American Dream in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and sort of share with the community the history of the bill that was passed in 1992, eventually, to recognize the month of May as an official

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

In 1977, Representative Frank Horton, a Representative from New York, and Norman Y. Mineta, from California, introduced the Asian Pacific Heritage Week, House Resolution 540, in the House of Representatives, which called upon the President to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Pacific Asian Heritage Week. The joint resolution did not contain an annual designation, so in 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the joint resolution put forward by both Representatives Horton and Mineta.

Then, in 1990, Asian American leaders around the country gathered at the White House to witness the signing of a proclamation by President George Bush declaring May to be Asian Pacific Heritage Month. So we went from a week to a month. In 1992, President Bush signed legislation into law designating May of each year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

□ 2115

Mr. Speaker, it is apropos since this is the month of May we do take some time to recognize those who were important in designating Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

First, why is it important? As a schoolteacher, if we do not teach our history and understand the members of our community's contributions to this country, our children, be they Asian Americans or not, will be less educated and less informed and less appreciative of not only their culture but the cultures of other people.

The growth of the Asian Pacific population from 1980 to 1990 doubled from 3.7 million to approximately 7.3 million. This increase is remarkable when compared to the total increase in the U.S. population of 9.8 percent during that same period.

Then the growth continued to rise another 43 percent from 1990 to 1999. Currently, APAs comprise 4.5 percent of the U.S. population; and by 2050 APAs are expected to comprise 9 percent of the U.S. population. However, in the State of California, the APA population already comprise 11 percent of the general population and grew 34 percent in the past decade, from 2.8 to 3.8 million. This growth, although largely attributed to immigration patterns, is also indicative of more defined data collection methods which has always been a problem in our communities. So the last census it was critical that the census taken was accurate and was as precise as possible.

Data is a cross-cutting issue. Lack of data impacts our understanding of the health problems in our communities, as well as the problems in access and quality. Adequate data collection continues to be a challenge for the APA community.

Although we are often mistaken to be a homogeneous group and sometimes considered perpetual foreigners, APAs in this country encompasses 49

ethnicities speaking over 100 languages and dialects. Aggregating such a large and diverse group makes it difficult to understand the unique problems faced by the individual ethnicities it encompasses.

So when we aggregate Asian Americans as a population, when we look at programs and policies in this country, it is critical that we disaggregate the information so that we are able to be more precise in our policies and programs that we want to target for our communities.

Let me just share a little bit of historical time line. Historically, in 1763 the very first settlement that we know of were some escaped prisoners aboard the Spanish galleons, and they were Filipinos jumping ship in New Orleans. They fled into the bayous of Louisiana, and they established a community called Saint Malo, the first APA settlement in the United States, fleeing the Spanish galleons and seeking freedom in this country.

In 1882, this country saw fit to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Exclusion Act ends most immigration from China until 1943 and denied citizenship to those already present, many of whom were drawn by the gold rush and the Central Pacific Railroad.

As a sideline, we have found out through our research that there have been many Chinese Americans who fought in the Civil War. Upon their petition to become citizens after serving in the military, they were denied citizenship because of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

In 1868, the Japanese settled in California, first in a community called Alameda in the San Francisco Bay area and secondly in El Dorado County near Sacramento. That colony was name Wahamatsu Colony.

An interesting story of the Wahamatsu Colony, the first colony in this country, was that they first came as refugees from Japan led by a gentleman who was a gunrunner in Japan, Mr. Schell. He had a choice of either facing death or being deported. So he left with his contingent of folks from Japan and established this colony. This colony did not last very long, but it is important to note that the last surviving members of the first colony in the State of California are not Japanese Americans but families of African Americans and Chinese.

So it shows that ethnic groups in this country, when they come to this country, they may be disallowed from intermarrying with the mainstream white groups of this country, but they found ways to raise families and find their way through this country until such time that laws were passed to allow people to earn their citizenship in this country.

In 1912 at the Stockholm Olympics, swimmer Duke Kahinomoku became the first APA to win a Gold Medal. He was later credited with introducing the sport, a sport that is endearing to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-

ABACHER), the sport of surfing in the United States.

In 1913, the Alien Land Act was passed, and this was specifically in California. The Alien Land Act forced immigrants, primarily Japanese and other APAs, from owning or leasing land; and similar laws were passed in other States throughout the Nation. Subsequently it was rescinded later on in the 1950s.

In 1942, the Japanese American internment occurred. This was following the United States' declaration of war against Japan when Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the forced relocation and detention of 120,000 Japanese Americans, as well as over 2,000 Japanese Latin Americans. And also in this country it is not well-known that over 7,000 Italian Americans were affected personally, their families, and over 30,000 German Americans were affected.

In 1943, the Japanese American battalion, the 442nd, which was comprised of some 12,000 Japanese Americans, many of them from internment camps, responded to the War Department's call for volunteers for an all-Japanese combat unit. It was not unusual at that time that we had segregated combat units. We had combat units of Indians; we had combat units of blacks and African Americans. At that time around 32,000 were inducted to form the 442 regimental combat team, and we had Members of this House who served in the Regimental Combat 442, the past Congressman Sparky Matsunaga and the current Senator from Hawaii, Mr. INOUE.

This combat team became legendary for its success, and it is probably the most decorated military men in the United States history. Their average Purple Heart that this combat unit had inflicted upon them, they had earned almost three Purple Hearts per person, meaning they had to be injured. Each member had to be injured at least three times, so close to 9,000 Purple Hearts were granted recognizing their injuries in the effort to fight the war in Europe.

In 1946, the first Chinese American, Wing F. Ong of Arizona, becomes the first APA to be elected to State office. Asian Americans, we are still looking at firsts. Some day we hope that we will go beyond the first and become a rule rather than an exception.

In 1956, after the first congressman, an Indian American businessman Dalip Singh Saund of Westmoreland, California, became the very first Asian Pacific American elected to Congress, he, however, wanted to become a citizen and could not become a citizen prior to 1952 because there was still a law on the books that disallowed Asian to become citizens. When that law was rescinded, he was able to participate in the halls of Congress.

In 1964, the first congresswoman, Patsy Takemoto Mink is the first woman of color and the first Asian Pacific congresswoman to represent Hawaii in the halls of Congress. We know

that we lost her just recently, and it was a terrible loss to not only Asian Americans but Americans throughout this country and to all those who believe that those who have never forgotten their roots and their past come to Congress making sure that the idea that equality and opportunities for all Americans, regardless of their background, must be met and must be respected.

In 1965, a labor activist named Philip Vera Cruz organizes a successful strike of fellow Filipino grape pickers in Coachella, California. This gentleman began the movement that leads to the formation of the United Farm Workers of America where eventually Cesar Chavez became the head leader and recognized for his work and his philosophy of peace and nonviolent activism.

In 1968, there was an ethnic studies strike. Students of color from San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley organize a Third World strike. Their efforts led to the creation of ethnic studies departments at both campuses and eventually across this country.

I have to say that because of the work of folks in ethnic studies, which was a movement that did not have much support among the scholastic circles until recently, that we found all this information that would lead to children, present and in the future, being able to understand that Asian Americans are not recent immigrants and Asian Americans have contributed to the development of this country.

Further, the most valuable player in 1969 was a Filipino American. He played for the Los Angeles Rams as a quarterback, and his name was Roman Gabriel. He was recognized as the league's Most Valuable Player.

The first governor in 1974 was a Japanese governor named George Ariyoshi; and he was elected governor of Hawaii, the first APA governor in the United States.

And in 1981, a Chinese American architecture student, Maya Lin, her design was chosen for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in a national competition. She becomes one of the most widely recognized architects in the United States, and her work can be seen here in Washington, D.C., at the Vietnam Memorial.

In 1982, a young man, Vincent Chin, who was celebrating the event of his marriage, was murdered. He was murdered in Detroit, Michigan. Two white auto workers mistook Chin for Japanese and blamed him for the auto industry's woes and the downturn in the economy. He was bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat. The courts were lenient on the killers, and none of them served a day in jail. This incident became a rallying point for the national APA community. His mom went across this country seeking justice and eventually had some justice through the civil rights law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for leading the effort to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage month.

During this month-long commemoration, Americans of Asian Pacific heritage celebrate achievements and major contributions for almost 12 million American citizens of Asian and Pacific heritage. Whether we are seeking of arts, education, government, business, athletics, medicine, law, or the military, Asian Pacific Americans have not only contributed but excelled.

Several congressional organizations reflect this unique relationship between Congress and Asian Pacific Americans.

□ 2130

I recently joined my distinguished colleagues, Representative ISSA, Representative FILNER and Representative ROHRBACHER, in founding Friends of the Philippines. The bipartisan membership comprises Members who are working to promote better relations with our longstanding ally, the Philippines. I am also a member of the India Caucus, which similarly works to promote a better relationship with India.

The bicameral and bipartisan Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus was created by Congressman Norman Mineta, who is now Secretary of Transportation, and Congresswoman Patsy Mink in 1994. Both have served as Chair of the caucus. In the 108th Congress, this Congress, Congressman DAVID WU serves as Chair and Congressman HONDA serves as vice Chair of that caucus. 115 Members of Congress have joined the caucus and work together on policies and legislation that are of concern to Asian Pacific Americans. The caucus is working hard not only to educate other Members about the history and contributions of Asian Pacific Islanders but also to protect and advance the constitutional rights of all Americans.

My connection with the celebration begins with my maternal grandfather who was born in the Philippines. Around 1900 he immigrated to the United States aboard a naval vessel at an early age. He landed in Raleigh, North Carolina, and was adopted by a family in Raleigh. He became a pharmacist but unfortunately died before I was born.

The historic significance of this month involves two events that occurred in May which determined why this month was chosen to celebrate a week, and now a month, for Asian Pacific American heritage contributions. The first occurred on May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States. The second occurred on May 10, 1869, known as Golden Spike Day, when the first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed with significant contributions from Chinese immigrants.

Before Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law in 1992, it began as a week-long observance of Asian Pacific Americans' contributions to this country. In 1977, Congressman Horton introduced H.J. Res. 540, legislation to authorize the President to proclaim annually the first 10 days in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. Congressman Mineta led the efforts to enact H.J. Res. 1007, which in 1979 began as an annual celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. In 1989, legislation was introduced to convert the week into a month, and in 1992 legislation was enacted to make the annual month an annual commemoration.

Mr. Speaker, I join the gentleman from California tonight as we urge all Americans to learn the history of Asian Pacific Americans and to celebrate their contributions to the culture and heritage of our Nation. I want to thank the gentleman from California for leading the effort to make sure that this was properly commemorated.

Mr. HONDA. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, if I may continue my sharing of information on the chronological order. After the American internment, in 1990 we had a gentleman by the name of Chang-Lin Tien who became the first APA to head a major university in the United States when he was appointed chancellor of the University of Berkeley. He distinguished himself not only because he led the campus as a chancellor but he also became known by the students on that campus, which is quite rare. He also allowed the students to feel that they were part of a community. He was a great proponent of affirmative action. He was a great proponent of making sure that he modeled what it is that he believed by his own personal life. He also was probably the most prodigious and prolific fund-raiser that university system has ever seen. He just passed away a year ago from brain cancer. We shall miss him dearly; but his work and his model, his expectation continues to live in that system and in the State of California.

In 1992, Mr. Speaker, the Los Angeles uprisings took place. The L.A. uprisings followed the verdict in the Rodney King trial. Property loss was valued at \$1 billion with Korean American businesses bearing half the damage. Relations between Korean Americans and African Americans became a focal point of community activism. Today when visiting Los Angeles, one will find that the two communities are working hand in hand to make sure that they learn from each other and can grow with each other and that neither one is targeted in times of tension.

In 1996 there was a victory for Asian immigrant women workers. After a 3½ year national campaign, APA immigrant women and Asian immigrant women advocates reached a historic agreement with clothing manufacturer Jessica McClintock to protect garment laborers.

Mr. Speaker, in 1996 something happened in the State of Washington. Not only can Hawaii boast of an Asian American Governor but also the State of Washington elected its first Asian American Governor, Gary Locke from the State of Washington. He enjoys quite a bit of leadership. Today he is the chair of the Governors association. In 1996, AIDS research reached a point of distinction. A gentleman by the name of David Ho was named Time Magazine's Man of the Year for his work in AIDS research. He developed the protease inhibitor cocktail treatment which adds years to the lives of many AIDS patients. David Ho.

In 1997, there was a woman in space. She was an Asian Pacific American. Astronaut Kalpana Chawla became the first Indo-American and APA woman in space. She died in the breakup of the Columbia Space Shuttle returning to Earth this year, in February 2003.

The first APA man in the Cabinet was selected by President Bill Clinton when he appointed former Congressman Norman Mineta Secretary of Commerce. He is the first APA member of the Presidential Cabinet. Earlier in his career, Mineta was the first APA mayor of a major metropolitan city, San Jose. Then in the next administration under George Bush, George Bush saw fit to ask Norm Mineta to serve as Secretary of Transportation. We are enjoying his leadership currently as Secretary of Transportation.

In 2002, an APA woman legislator by the name of Wilma Chan of Alameda, California, is a State legislator but she rose to the Democratic majority leader of the California State Assembly. There are other firsts, Mr. Speaker. The first Hmong attorney. The Hmongs came from Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War. The Hmongs were scattered throughout this country but eventually assembled both in Fresno, California, and in Minnesota. Mee Moua was a young woman who was an attorney and became the first woman and first Hmong attorney and first member of the Hmong community to be elected to the Minnesota State Senate. Shortly after that, Cy Thao became the first Hmong assemblyman in the State of Minnesota. There is also in the State of Minnesota the first Indo-American, Satveer Chaudhary. He hails from Minnesota, also.

There was the first APA woman in the Cabinet. President George W. Bush appointed Elaine Chao to be Secretary of Labor. She is the very first APA woman to hold a Presidential Cabinet post.

Mr. Speaker, in this country there are many firsts. We have John Liu who is the very first Asian American to sit on the City of New York's city council representing the 20th district.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership of the Asian Pacific American Caucus and our tri-caucus, actually, because it is real-

ly a privilege to belong to the tri-caucus, the Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Black Caucus. We join the gentleman today in celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In my district, the Ninth Congressional District of California, the east bay of Northern California, Asian Pacific Americans have long played a very crucial role in the life and in the history of the east bay and the region's identity has been deeply shaped by its place on the Pacific Rim. I am proud again to join him tonight in celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The contributions to our country by Asian Pacific Americans are numerous, and we are a much better country as a result. However, today Asian Americans confront a wide variety of challenges, including access to educational opportunities, language access issues, and health problems and disparities.

Specifically, I would just like to talk this evening about health care issues, immigration and civil liberties issues and about the work being done in my own district by the Asian Health Services organization and the Asian Law Caucus. Asian Health Services is a comprehensive community health center based in Oakland, California. It provides medical care, health education, insurance counseling, and client advocacy. They reach out into the underserved Asian and Pacific Islander population in Alameda County. Its staff members offer its services in nine languages. They provide almost 60,000 medical visits to some 14,000 patients each year. And they are doing this on minimal resources. In the process, they are helping to tear down language and economic barriers that separate far too many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from quality health care.

As we all know, there are vast health disparities in this country. Asian and Pacific Americans are disproportionately affected by cancer and other serious diseases. Asian and Pacific Americans have a tuberculosis rate that is 15 times higher than that of whites. They have cervical and liver cancer rates that are five times the national average. These disparities we must erase, and we must commit ourselves to do that tonight as we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Recent immigrants also face many challenges from language barriers to medical bureaucracy. Organizations like Asian Health Services are helping their clients conquer their challenges through community outreach, education, and patient care. In recent years, AHS has also opened a very badly needed dental clinic. As part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I want to salute the contributions tonight of the Asian Health Services. In this age of State and Federal budget deficits and Federal tax cuts, their commitment is needed now more than ever. Immigrants are especially at risk during these perilous times.

As part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I believe that it is very important to call to the attention of the country a hero for many of us who I am privileged to say lives in my district and is a constituent, Mr. Fred Korematsu. During World War II when thousands of Japanese Americans were unjustly interned in camps, Fred Korematsu refused to go and took his case all the way to the Supreme Court. Mr. Korematsu stood up not only for his own rights but for civil liberties for all of us. Racial profiling really was not a word or a concept in 1942, but it was practiced with vengeance. The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II represents one of the darkest chapters in our Nation's history. Tens of thousands of people were imprisoned not because of disloyalty, but because of ethnicity; and the President, the Congress, and the Supreme Court all conspired in this act of fear and prejudice.

When Fred Korematsu took his case to the Supreme Court in 1944, the Court ruled in favor of the government and thus in favor of racism and oppression. But by exposing the truth, Fred Korematsu exposed for all of the world to see the utter hypocrisy of fighting for democracy abroad while rationing it here at home. And although it took many, many decades, Fred Korematsu finally won when President Reagan apologized for the internment and Congress finally offered compensation.

I am very proud to say that the Asian Law Caucus fought for Fred Korematsu as it has fought for many Asian Americans. For 31 years, the Asian Law Caucus has advanced the legal and civil rights of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Now those communities and our society unfortunately as a whole need that advocacy even more. As attorneys and as legal professionals, we need the skills and the energy and the commitment of lawyers associated with the Asian Law Caucus. Educational opportunities and legal support services are both shrinking under this current administration.

□ 2145

The representation provided to hundreds of low-income clients and the advocacy of the caucus is really making an impact in both high-profile litigation and in the lives of families and individuals each and every day. By fighting for housing, fairness in employment, and the rights of seniors; by stopping unlawful evictions and helping immigrants navigate, and really they have to navigate, the citizenship process, the Asian Law Caucus is strengthening democracy and carrying out the legacies of the civil rights movement of the last century.

So as a proud member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am proud to join with the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) tonight to make sure that our entire country understands why we are celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Let

us make sure that we represent Asian Pacific Americans every month, each and every day as we develop our policies and our legislation that ensure liberty and justice for all.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE). And I yield, Mr. Speaker, to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), and I am very proud to stand here as a member of the Asian Pacific Caucus and as well to applaud the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) for his vision and leadership on helping us commemorate the Asian Pacific Heritage Month, the month of May.

I am excited because as I left Houston, we were, if the Members will, embedded, if I might use that terminology, in celebrations and commemoration on the Asian Pacific Month in Houston. We are very proud as a very diverse community to be reflective of so many from the Asian community, and we are very proud of the fact that all of our citizens recognize and respect the excitement and contributions of this dynamic community. Might I applaud Mayor pro tempore council member Gordon Quan, the highest-ranking Asian American in the city of Houston. He serves as second in the command of the city of Houston, and we are very proud of his representation.

I am also proud of the fact, if I might speak to the political process, of the number of Asian Americans who will be seeking political office and empowerment. Might I applaud the thought processes that have moved our communities to be accepting of that diversity. And as well, might I applaud the Asian American senior citizen community and senior citizens community center. We had the privilege of meeting with many of the representatives just a few weeks ago, and we have collectively made a commitment to help them build a very dynamic community center for the very dynamic senior citizen community in Houston that happens to be Asian. The reason, of course, because there is such history, there is such a commonality, a community of interests, that we want to make sure that those individuals have an opportunity to reflect on their history and to expand on their cultural pride by having a community center designated and committed to them.

I am also proud of the work that has been done in collaboration with the Asian American community on the issues dealing with immigration. We have worked on the question of whether or not immigration equates to terrorism, and we worked on the question of civil liberties as we have moved certain bills such as the PATRIOT Act and as we formulated the Select Committee on Homeland Security. We have worked to ensure that we do not stigmatize and racially profile different ethnic groups.

This is a month to celebrate and commemorate this outstanding community. For that reason I would like to stand and join with the very powerful and very impressive leader of this Asian Pacific Caucus in the United States Congress and suggest that his continued advocacy on behalf of expanding the opportunities of the Asian Pacific community throughout the Nation and emphasizing political empowerment, social empowerment, civic empowerment is one that I join him in and I thank him for allowing me to celebrate this very important month, and might I congratulate the entire Asian Pacific community in Houston and all Asian Americans as we celebrate this very important month.

With that I yield back to the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for her words and her support not only here in the halls of Congress but also back home in Houston and Texas in general. Her work and the work of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) really just show that there is power in collaboration and being able to work together not only as individuals but as a coalition for the betterment of every American in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch a little bit on the internment story of the Japanese Americans in this country. It is a story that needs to be told over and over again because it is not a Japanese American history lesson. It is not a Japanese American experience only. It is not a Japanese American lesson, but it is really rooted deeply in what I would consider an American lesson.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 61st anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942; and it is the 15th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 pursuant to which 120,000 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens were incarcerated in internment camps during World War II. Many of these families lost their property and possessions during the several years they were jailed behind barbed wire.

On February 19, 1976, President Gerald Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066; and July 21, 1980, became the beginning of reconciling our past to the present. Congress adopted legislation signed by President Jimmy Carter on July 31, 1980, establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate the claim that the incarceration of Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens during World War II was not justified by military necessity. The outcome of that commission, Mr. Speaker, the commission had held 20 days of hearings and listened to testimony of over 720 witnesses, and published its findings in a report entitled "Personal

Justice Denied." The principal finding in 1982 was that the promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity and that the decision which followed from it, detention, ending detention and ending exclusion, were not driven by analysis of military conditions, but rather the causes that shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.

With a strong bipartisan vote, Congress passed H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act, which states in part: "For these fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry, the Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation." President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law on August 10, 1988, at which time he proclaimed: "This is a great day for America."

In 1998, as a member of the California State Assembly, I authored the State version of the Civil Liberties Act, understanding that the work was still not done once the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 had expired.

I mention these dates and this timing, Mr. Speaker, because today it is even more important, more important than ever, to speak up against unjust policies. It is also more important than ever to educate Americans of the Japanese American experience during World War II, as well as the experience of other groups like Japanese Latin Americans who were expatriated from their country at the request of our government; and then while they were on the ships on their way to the United States to be interned in Crystal City, Texas, they were stripped of all their papers and became people without a country. And certain German and Italian Americans in this country were also mistreated, many of whom were forced in the middle of the night to leave their homes and pledge allegiance to the Flag in the middle of the night in order to show that to their neighbors, who forced them out, to prove that they were loyal and patriotic Americans during that time.

It is also important to learn the important lessons from our own history in the resolution I introduced, H.R. 56, the Day of Remembrance resolution, which is still in the Committee on the Judiciary. Teaching the lessons of those dark days is more important today than it ever was. By remembering, Executive Order 9066 that was signed on February 19, 1942, does not become an anniversary just on February 19 but is an anniversary that must be remembered and lived and understood every day of the year, every year for the future of this country, because the lessons that were learned were lessons that were principally rooted in the Constitution of this country, the Constitution which was a contract between our government and the people who are here in this country, a contract that is signed on paper called the Declaration of Independence, a contract that is immutable and cannot be

changed and should not be changed, a contract that promises everyone who is in this country due process and the protection of their civil liberties. It is a contract that has been protected. It is a contract that has been fought for and a contract which members of this country who served in the military have shed their blood overseas for, who left their limbs in the islands of the Pacific and on the European continent.

These Americans must be remembered as part of the lessons that we learned from the Japanese American experience that the Constitution is a contract worth protecting and dying for. We must remember that this Constitution was written back in 1776, but yet it is an evolving, growing Constitution that over time has included not only white men with properties but those who used to be slaves; those immigrants whose laws were passed against them which eventually were rescinded became citizens of this country; those immigrants who came just recently after the Vietnam War, and even today people are still seeking to find refuge in this country even at times when we seem to appear to be inhospitable to the immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, the lessons learned during the internment when we thought that we were protecting Japanese Americans for their own safety was actually a myth because if it were true, then as my father used to tell me, he wondered why if we were here for our protection, why would the barbed wires be around us, the machines pointing in on us. And my father used to still tell me, though, that, as I grew up, to be 110 percent American; that we must also remember that the contributions that have been invested in this country of our parents and grandparents are well worth it, that we must also learn that even though this country is faced with challenges since 9-11 that in spite of the war on terrorism that we still have to remember the constitutional principles by which we live.

When 9-11 occurred, the ugly head of racial prejudice appeared again as it did in 1942. Hysteria started to take over some hearts in this country, and as a result people like Balbir Singh Sodhi, an immigrant and a Sikh American from Fremont, California, moved to Mesa, Arizona to start a business there and because he looked like the enemy to the perpetrator, he was murdered and shot there in his store. And then coincidentally another year later, his brother Sukhpal Singh Sodhi was a taxi driver in San Francisco who was shot and murdered in San Francisco merely because he appeared to be a Middle Easterner and those who murdered him thought that they were vindicated because they played upon and acted upon their prejudice and their hysteria and their hatred.

□ 2200

It did not become a wave of murders and hangings here in this country, for I believe that, because of the history

that we have been able to share, that many of us checked our fears and checked our emotions and made sure that we did not respond or succumb to our base fears.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Members of this Congress also participated in making sure that the people of our country remembered and learned from the history of the internment, that racial profiling is unacceptable, and although we are in the throes of fear and the issues of national security that we must exercise our common sense, our good sense, and exercise our understanding of the principles of the Constitution.

We know that after 9/11 and after certain acts were passed, such as the PATRIOT Act, that we must seek the critical balance between civil liberties and private liberties with national security; and the Constitution continues to be tested as we move along, looking towards a possible second PATRIOT Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is my prayer, my hope, that Members of this body remember that Asian Americans were pioneers establishing this country. The Asian Americans were laborers building this country. The Asian Americans are doctors, lawyers, teachers and politicians, providing for the health and welfare of this Nation; and we, like every other American, are red-blooded Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a couple of comments that became a lesson for me personally as I have been here my third year and my experience and seeing the works of the halls of Congress here in Washington, D.C.

I believe that the very basic lesson I have learned is not only from the experience that my community has had in 1942, the kinds of lessons we learned since then and the kinds of teachings that we have learned, but I also started to understand that the last century was a century of wars, a century of conflict, a century of trauma, and that the promise that we have in this new century should be the century of reconciliation and peace.

Now that the Cold War is gone, we have a challenge of facing conflicts in other ways. A wise man once said to me that peace, Mike, is not an absence of conflict, but a way, a manner, in which you can deal with conflict.

So, in closing, the primary lesson I have learned these past few years, Mr. Speaker, is that our Constitution is never tested in times of tranquility, but our Constitution is sorely tested in times of trauma, terror and tragedy, and that the very fiber of the American character and this country should be embodied and should be learned from the very words and the principles and the rights embodied in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to utilize this time to share some of the information that we have had, share some of the information with the general public, and hopefully

the records would reflect that Asian Americans in this country came with a dream, they worked hard and participated, they faced barriers and overcame them, and that can only happen over time in a country and a democracy like ours, where evolution and evolving sentiments and policies in this country only lead us forward, that we learn from our mistakes, and that only makes us stronger and better Americans and a greater America.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for more than two centuries, America has been enriched by our diverse and rapidly growing Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Generations of immigrants and refugees from Asia and native peoples from Hawaii and the Pacific Islands have enhanced our nation by preserving and sharing their unique cultures and values.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month provides a special opportunity for all Americans to pay tribute to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders whose countless contributions—in science and technology, arts and media, business and social work, politics and more—have left a lasting legacy on American culture and society.

Moreover, these communities serve as a living example of the critical role that equal opportunity, social justice, and civic participation play in making the American Dream a reality. In the face of prejudice and poverty, internment and exclusion, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have fought for the right to call America their home. This month, we thank them for their perseverance, we applaud them for their achievements, and we proudly recognize them as fellow countrymen in our common homeland.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues this evening to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and I want to thank the Chairmen of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Mr. HONDA and Mr. WU, for their leadership of the caucus. I would especially like to thank Mr. HONDA for organizing this special order which seeks, not only to recognize the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to our Nation, but also to educate our citizens on the uniqueness of our people.

Asian Pacific Americans are a rapidly growing group made up of 49 different ethnicities speaking over 100 different languages and dialects representing 4.5 percent of our population today.

Asian Pacific Americans have much to be proud of. In every aspect of American life—business, education, government, the military, in media, sports, entertainment and the arts—you will find prominent Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Here in Congress, more than 30 members past and present have been of Asian and Pacific Island descent representing backgrounds such as Chamorros, Samoans, Native Hawaiians, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Indian and Chinese.

As we celebrate the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans in this "Salute to Liberty" and with the approach of Memorial Day, it is fitting that we reflect of the thousands of Asian Pacific Islanders who have served in our armed services. In World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and, most recently, the

war in Iraq, Asian Pacific Islanders have served with honor and distinction.

I am honored by Guam's record of service to the Nation. Men and women from Guam have served in all wars, and they have served in disproportion to their small numbers.

Today, let us again acknowledge the sacrifice of Asian Pacific Americans in defense of our country.

Common to the Asian and Pacific Island heritage is the sense of family and community. Our concern for our immediate as well as extended family is what encourages us to work harder and strive for a better life for everyone in our community. It is our sense of family that strengthens our commitment to fight against racism, discrimination and injustice, not just of our people, but of all people.

Historically, Asians and Pacific Islanders have known much war and strife. They have survived and they have thrived to the benefit of America. So today, as we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, let us honor all they have done to enrich our lives.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this House is marking Asian Pacific American Heritage month. For those of us from the State of Hawaii, there is something missing in this year's Heritage Month celebration—the dynamic presence of our colleague, Patsy Takemoto Mink. I would like to take this opportunity, therefore, to reprise the tribute to her that I delivered on this floor last October.

We were devastated by the sudden loss of this irreplaceable woman.

Patsy Mink was the first Asian American woman to serve in Congress. But she was much more than that. She was our friend and colleague. She was a true daughter of Hawaii. She was a person of enormous spirit and tenacity and inner strength. This House is much the poorer for her loss. We especially miss her wisdom, her energy, her readiness to fight for principle.

As evidence of the high esteem in which she was held in Hawaii, she was elected over and over by the voters of Hawaii, and she was re-elected posthumously after she passed away just before the 2002 election.

Patsy fought all her life for social and economic justice. Throughout nearly 50 years of public service, she championed America's most deeply held values: equality, fairness, and above all . . . honesty.

Her courage, her willingness to speak out and champion causes that others might shun resulted in tremendous contributions in the fields of civil rights and education.

She has earned an honored place in the history of the United States House of Representatives as the co-author of title IX, which guarantees equality for women in education programs.

Every single woman in this Nation who today access to equal opportunity in education, and by extension in virtually every other field of endeavor, owes a debt to Patsy Mink.

She was one of the pioneers who transformed Hawaii and transformed this Nation. Her legacy lives on in every campus in America and in the heart of every American woman who aspires to greatness. Most profoundly, it lives on in the spirit of hope, hope for the millions of lives that she touched. Patsy Mink knew first hand the power of hope, the power of perseverance, the power of dreams.

She was turned down for medical school, discriminated against because she was fe-

male, because she was Japanese American, because she came from an unknown territory out in the Pacific.

That is why she went to law school, fought her way into law school so that she could achieve a degree that would enable her to fight against the discrimination she had suffered. She was a champion then. We all recognized it. She was smart and she was tough and she was articulate and she would not quit. She was an inspiration then and now. Whenever any of us felt some sense of discouragement, whenever any of us felt some sense of despair or feeling that we could not succeed, it was only required for Patsy to come in the room to change the atmosphere.

Patsy Mink had the capacity to make dead air move. Patsy Mink, this little lady from Hawaii, was a giant in her heart and in her commitment.

With every breath that she took, she championed those who had no one to stand up and speak out for them. A little lady with a big heart, a lioness.

We will not see her like again.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which honors Asian Pacific Americans throughout our history.

From the early reaches of our Nation's history to the present day, Asian Pacific Americans have played a crucial role in the development of the United States. Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to explorations of places as far away as the depths of outer space, and places as near as the inner vessels of the human body. They have served as generals in our military, builders of our great transcontinental railroads, and athletes without peer.

But I rise today not to merely tout the accomplishments of this storied group of people, but to speak specifically about the uplifting account of two amazing families, one Asian Pacific American and one Caucasian. I want to relate to my colleagues the amazing and unique friendship that developed between the Tanimura and Antle families over impossible odds.

George Tanimura, a second-generation Japanese American, grew up spending his weekends working on his father's lettuce farm in Castroville, California, in my congressional district. Both of George's parents died before he completed high school, so George, the oldest of 12 siblings, along with his brother Charlie, managed the farm. The family business was kept afloat during the troubled times of the Great Depression, only to be devastated by the forced internment of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor. While brothers Charlie and John joined the U.S. Army, George and his other siblings were inhumanely forced into internment camps. By the time the Tanimura family was released after World War II, it had lost all its previous land holdings. Slowly and painstakingly the Tanimuras regained their agricultural footing, farming onions and lettuce on 20 acres of land.

The Antle family migrated west from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl in the late 1800s, arriving in Salinas, California, to find work in the iceberg lettuce industry. Bud Antle joined his father Lester as a lettuce packer in Salinas. In 1942, after years of hard work, Bud and Lester created their own lettuce-packing company, Bud Antle, Inc. The company grew quite rap-

idly, starting with 60 workers and quickly increasing to 300 workers.

The Tanimura family soon began growing lettuce only for Bud Antle, Inc. It was a natural marriage of lettuce growers and lettuce packers, and the Tanimuras and Antles soon became close friends. The Antles treated the Tanimura family as equals in a time rife with discrimination. In turn, Bud's son Bob worked closely with the Tanimura family and quickly learned the industry. In 1982, after years of trusted friendship, these two families formed Tanimura & Antle, one of the largest lettuce producers in the world.

The story of the Tanimuras and the Antles is one of uplift beyond all possible odds. Both families built their companies from the ground up, and with an understanding of and appreciation for human rights when such a concept was in short supply. I commend these two families for serving as a heartening reminder of all that is good about America. I can think of no finer time to recognize their mutual achievements than during this special Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in homage of Asian Pacific American Month to honor our nation's Asian Pacific American community. I am honored to share in the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of such a special month.

The beauty of our nation comes from the diversity of its colorful fabric, which includes the Asian Pacific American community. More than 12.5 million APAs make up one of the fastest growing segments of the United States population. I am certainly grateful for all of the countless contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to our society.

Asian Pacific Americans have blazed trails in a myriad of professions including academics, science, business, music, technology, sports and, of course politics. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I mentioned great Asian Pacific Americans and not mention my good friend former Representative Patsy Mink of Hawaii. Although she is no longer with us, her presence is still felt, here in the halls of Congress. Patsy was a knowledgeable, courageous woman—committed to people.

In April of 2002, with the help of my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific, Black, and Hispanic caucuses, we established the Tri-Caucus, a collective caucus with the purpose of addressing issues of mutual concern. This group is dedicated to many issues that affect our diverse constituency. Specifically, the Tri-Caucus focuses on immigration, health care, education, and economic development issues. One year after the September 11th tragedy, the Tri-Caucus participated in the historic Commemorative Joint Session of Congress in New York City and held a Business Roundtable that assembled a host of leaders in the business community to explore economic development strategies. The Tri-Caucus also presented a joint statement on the affirmative action case at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, APAs have contributed to this nation since their first settlement was established in the bayous of Louisiana in 1763. In the midst of World War II, more than 12,000 Japanese Americans volunteered for an all-Japanese combat unit, many of them came from mainland concentration camps after President Franklin Roosevelt signed an Executive Order authorizing the forced relocation

and detention of 120,000 Japanese Americans, as well as Japanese Latin Americans. The Legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team went down in history as one of our nation's most decorated military units. To date, there are more than 284,000 Asian American military veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives and citizens around the nation to explore the rich culture, achievements and contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues tonight honoring the many contributions of Asian Pacific Americans. In particular, I wish to honor one of my greatest heroes and long time friend, former Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here tonight and recognize the many contributions that Patsy Mink made to the people of this country, particularly to the girls and women of this country.

I was privileged to serve with Patsy while working with her on the House Education and the Workforce Committee since the beginning of my tenure in 1992. She served as a mentor and friend to me while I have worked in Congress and I miss her very much.

Besides being the first woman of color to serve in the House of Representatives, Patsy Mink helped craft landmark legislation for women across the country during her 24 years in Congress. In the early 1970s Patsy played the key role in the enactment of Title Nine, which prohibits gender discrimination by federally funded institutions.

When most people think of Title Nine, they think of women's sports and, the impact of Title Nine of women's sports can be clearly seen. Title Nine has increased the numbers of girls and women who participate in sports in high school and college.

Even beyond school, we can see the impact of Title Nine in the impressive accomplishments of American female athletes at the Olympics, and when we turn on the TV to watch professional women's basketball and soccer games.

But, we shouldn't forget that Title Nine has also been a major tool for increasing women's participation in other aspects of education, as well.

Even as we stand here on the floor today Title Nine is being used to make sure that girls have equal access to classes which teach the skills that lead to high-wage jobs that women need to support themselves and their families.

But, Title Nine was not Patsy's only contribution to the girls and women of America.

Patsy also authored the Women's Educational Equity Act, which is still the primary resource for teachers and parents seeking information on proven methods to ensure gender equity in their schools and communities.

The Women's Educational Equity Act represents the Federal commitment to ensuring that girls' future choices and successes are determined not by their gender, but by their own interests, aspirations and abilities.

There has been no stronger voice in Congress for girls, women, and minorities than Patsy's, and it will do Congress proud to remember and honor her not only for her heritage but also for the enormous impact she made while she was here in Congress.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Asian Pacific American

Heritage Month and to celebrate the lives and accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans in our history. In particular, I want to recognize the contributions of Korean Americans to my district and commend them for their tireless work in improving the city of Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Koreans outside of Korea, roughly 160,000. Located in my district, Koreatown is the hub of the Korean community and vital to our local economy. The rich and diverse history of Korean immigration is carefully documented by the Korean American Museum, from the first Korean arrival in the United States at the turn of the 20th century for agricultural production, to the most recent wave of Korean immigration marked by the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act.

Just a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus kick-off event and hear from many of the Asian American leaders in my district and beyond who discussed their community development projects. I want to take this opportunity to recognize some of the groups I met that day and the contributions they continue to make to our communities: the Korean Resource Center, the Korean Youth & Community Center, the Korean Churches for Community Development, the Thai Community Development Center, and the Asian American Healthcare Venture. I want to reiterate one of the key concerns expressed to me by some of those community leaders at the forum, which is the need for community and economic development projects that are geared toward Asian Pacific Americans. The diversity of the APA population presents unique challenges for housing and community development systems, and we must look for ways to better allocate scarce resources to deliver linguistic and culturally appropriate services.

I strongly believe community development organizations must be sensitized to the history and experiences of the communities they serve in order to produce services that are linguistically and culturally appropriate. To that end Congress should look into federally designated funding for the APA community and economic development programs. We also need to look into better data collection and research at the national level to further understand the unique needs of the Asian American communities.

I want to thank Congressman Wu and Congressman HONDA, Chair and Vice Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, for organizing this special order. As we commemorate and celebrate the crucial role Asian Pacific Americans have played in the development of this Nation, we must also recognize the unique needs and challenges the 12.5 million Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S. face today and work towards improving their future and the future of our country.

MATTERS NOT YET FINISHED, ISSUES UNDONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to have been able to celebrate with the gentleman

from California (Mr. HONDA) the importance of Asian American and Asian Pacific Month.

I would like to add some additional points that I think are very important on this matter, and just add my thoughts regarding the information that we have shared this evening.

I would like to call this special order, Mr. Speaker, "Matters Not Yet Finished, Issues Undone."

I believe it is important to note, as we are facing challenges with respect to homeland security, that as we look to protect our Nation it is important to find the right kind of balance.

This morning I was able to join a number of my colleagues at the homeland security hearing held in the district of the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER). I thank her for her hospitality. It was a very important hearing. As we listened to the residents and Federal officials in the northern New York-Canadian area, the theme was, of course, that we should be effective and efficient and proficient, but also we need to balance the needs of that region as relates to the commerce of people and as well goods. So there should always be a balance.

That is why I think it is important to remind this Nation of the Japanese internment in the 1940s, done by a President, of course, that thought what he was doing was the correct thing. But in many instances the Japanese that were interred did not even speak the language, did not speak Japanese, may not have had any relationship to Japan, and certainly posed no threat to the United States. They lost their jobs, their property, their family.

So as we move through society and as we begin to look at these questions, I think it is extremely important that homeland security and the securing of this Nation be balanced with civil liberties and the refusal and rejection of racial profiling.

I might also want to add just a note as we are focusing on the Asian Pacific Month, it is just to pay tribute for a moment to our former colleague, our late colleague, Patsy Mink. We truly miss her. Certainly she was the first Asian Pacific woman to be elected to the United States Congress and the first minority woman. It is clear that her leadership was not a leadership that focused solely on the issues of her heritage. She focused on issues of social justice. She is known to be the Mother of Title IX, that opened the doors of opportunity for women athletes.

But I think it is very appropriate during this month to again compliment all of the Asian Pacific and Asian American elected officials throughout the Nation, our two Senators in the United States Senate, the many Members of this House of Representatives who serve us today. But certainly it would be remiss of all of us if we did not make mention of the fact that Patsy Mink served amongst us, and she was a dynamic and wonderful representative.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I believe that as we look at the issues confronting us there are many things that are left undone that I would like to make note of.

The first is that I would like to emphasize again a tribute to the 55 Texans that took it upon themselves to stand and be counted against a runaway legislature that wanted to do a number of legislative initiatives that were to undermine the representation of these members, 51 in Ardmore, and four others, a total of 55, a very unique and extraordinary procedure that was utilized.

I think the headline in the Washington Post on Tuesday, May 13, gave the right tone. "GOP plan prompts a Texas exodus. Democrats stall State legislature's redistricting vote. Moving with exceptional stealth and tactical coordination, more than 50 Democratic State lawmakers in Texas packed their bags and quietly slipped out of the State under cover of darkness late Sunday and early today."

Of course, it is alleged that the officials there dispatched various police officers and others to track them down. I do not think they reported, however, some of the abuses that occurred during that time; the fact that law enforcement, under the direction of State officials, went into hospitals, went into the homes of legislators whose children were home alone, tracked legislators' cars whose whereabouts were well-known because they were in Ardmore, simply, I believe, an inappropriate use of the legal authority of that State.

I would hope that there will be a great study of what occurred with these 55. I hope the Nation points sunlight on that political process so that the misrepresentation that they absconded or they left in the dark of night would not be the accurate characterization of what happened.

What happened was as important as those early settlers who threw, if you will, the tea into the Boston Harbor. It was an act of objection, defiance, in a democratic manner. It was a non-violent defiance of a governmental process that was oppressive.

And what was the oppression? The refusal of the legislature to even allow amendments by the Democrats on any issues, amendments that would deal with the saving of children who had lost their health care, amendments dealing with fixing Medicaid, amendments dealing with fixing the pension problem with respect to teachers in Texas, amendments dealing with the fact that schools were firing teachers. There was absolutely no respect of the bipartisan process that Texans had grown used to and certainly no respect of the balance between majority and minority.

So the Democrats did not just walk out, Mr. Speaker, on the issue dealing with redistricting, though let me share with you the plan that was supposed to be a redistricting plan. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, that not in 50 years had there been this kind of interim redistricting

request by any State. So it is unfortunate that we would have the majority leader of this body to interfere with the State process on the grounds that the State of Texas is a Republican State.

This is what we would have been subjected to if the redistricting plan would have existed.

First of all, District 25, that is now an existing district in the State of Texas, would have been extinguished, moving it some hundreds of miles away from its original base. That means an incumbent Member would have been totally eliminated. Not that the incumbent Member is the question. It is the question of the people having the right to select a person of their choosing and for communities of interest to be able to be together.

When I told constituents of the 25th that their district no longer existed, and these are individuals of different political persuasions, not only were they shocked, but they were outraged that they did not have the opportunity to have a hearing in their community to be able to address the question.

Mind you, Mr. Speaker, those of us from Texas wrote letters. The legislators there requested of that body, the State House, to allow for field hearings to occur. But, lo and behold, they were totally rejected. Not rejected as elected officials, but I would like to remind Speaker Craddick of the House of Representatives in Austin that he denied the people of the State of Texas.

But this plan would totally move the 18th Congressional District that I am now representing, again a district that belongs to the people, totally away from its historic communities of interest. It means the historic homes of Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland would no longer be in the 18th Congressional District and that historic location in Houston, Texas, but would be connected hundreds of miles away to a district that would be in Beaumont, Texas, next to Louisiana. So a downtown community, downtown Houston, would be connected under this plan that the legislators saw fit to leave town on to Beaumont, Texas.

The real key is the rights of the people, and I believe that the rights of the people have been undermined and, maybe in some instances, abused. I believe it is important as a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security that we clarify and make sure that in the rush to judgment of last week that no Federal resources were utilized.

So I would like to offer into the RECORD language from a letter that was sent by a number of Members of Congress dated today to request formally the audio tapes and transcripts of all conversations or transmissions pertaining to any aspect of the alleged attempts to use any Federal resources of any type with regard to any member of the Texas legislature. This request includes all communications of any type to and from employees and con-

sultants, wherever they may be located.

I would like to offer this into the RECORD at the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker.

□ 2215

The letter is joined by a letter that was sent last week by myself and a number of Members of this body to insist that this was not a Federal question. There had been no criminal acts that had been perpetrated by the legislators, and their constitutional rights protected them from their expression of opposition to the process of the Texas legislature, and that no Federal resources or no Federal intervention should occur.

Apparently, we were ignored; and already at that time inquiries were made to the Department of Justice to utilize their resources. Also, it appears that homeland security resources were used at that time and that there were trackings, if you will, of legislators.

That is an abomination, Mr. Speaker, an outrage. I hope that, out of the sense of respect and dignity for this House and the Members of this body, an appropriate response will be coming forth from the Homeland Security Department. I think it is absolutely a necessity, Mr. Speaker, that we engage in doing that immediately. Without that, I think that we are barking up a very wrong tree.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I am here to discuss issues left unstated and matters still to be done. I want to speak to the question of the news item of last week, and we do not know how long it will continue. I do so because I am a strong believer in the first amendment and the freedom of the press. It is certainly imperative and the responsibility of the press to be accurate; I do not disagree with that. Many of us who serve in elected office have seen many instances that we have challenged some of the accuracy of the reportings of the press.

At the same time, we hold very dear that privilege of the first amendment. In fact, the first amendment entitles us to the freedom of speech, the freedom of association and movement, and the freedom of religion, among others. So this is not a challenge, if you will, to the idea that we must protect the first amendment.

I recall working with a writer a year or two ago on the issue of ensuring that she had the right to hold her sources, a very sensitive issue. She was so convinced of this that she remained in jail for a period of months, almost a year, to protest against the grand jury demanding of her her sources. I sided with the privilege that she had to protect those sources of her particular articles that she had written and books that she was intending to write.

But this is about The New York Times and Jayson Blair. All of a sudden, it grew into a larger issue. Mr. Speaker, Jayson is an African American. The whereabouts of Jayson I do

not know if anyone knows at this point, but I would like to raise as a commentary an article by Bob Herbert written in *The New York Times*. It is seemingly May 19, late edition.

I believe this is an important commentary, because what we saw last week was an uproar about Mr. Blair's writings and the mea culpa of *The New York Times*, and the challenging of the editorial staff. I would like to support the editorial staff. I cannot support them personally in terms of their professional and management style, but certainly I believe that all heads should not roll because of an incident with an obviously unfortunate individual who has certainly deep and unfortunate problems.

But what began to happen is the trickle-up effect, that they wanted to throw the management out with the water. They also wanted to label Mr. Blair as a representative or a symbol of affirmative action. So I stand here today to take issue with all of the editorials and all of the commentary that will probably continue, that Mr. Jayson Blair's problems were because he was an African American hired on affirmative action and protected by affirmative action.

I would like to take from Mr. Herbert's commentary: "I've seen drunks, incompetents and out-and-out lunatics in the newsrooms I've passed through over the years. I have seen plagiarizers, fiction writers and reporters who felt it was beneath them to show up for work."

"I remember a police captain who said of a columnist at the daily News, 'I didn't mind him making stuff up as long as I looked okay. But now he's starting to tick me off.'"

"I was at NBC when some geniuses decided it was a good idea to attach incendiary devices to a few GM pick-up trucks to show the trucks had a propensity to burst into flames. That became a scandal that grew into a conflagration that took down the entire power structure at NBC News."

Then he refers to the Jayson Blair scandal: "For those who have been watching nothing but the Food Network for the past weeks, Mr. Blair was a Times reporter who resigned after it was learned that his work contained fabrications and plagiarized passages on a monumental scale. The truth and Jayson Blair inhabited separate universes. If there were a blizzard raging, Mr. Blair could tell you with the straightest and friendliest of faces that the weather outside was sunny and warm."

"Now, this story would be a juicy story under any circumstances. But Mr. Blair is black, so there is the additional spice of race, to which so many Americans are terminally addicted."

Listen up: the race issue in this case is as bogus as some of Jayson Blair's writing and reporting." A great comment and an important comment.

"The idea that blacks can get away with the journalistic equivalent of murder at *The Times* because they are black is preposterous."

"There's a real shortage of black reporters, editors and columnists at *The Times*. But the few who are here are doing fine and serious work day in and day out and don't deserve to be stigmatized by people who can see them only through the prism of a stereotype."

"The problem with American newsrooms is too little diversity, not too much. Blacks have always faced discrimination and maddening double standards in the newsroom, and they continue to do so. So do women, Latinos and many other groups that are not part of the traditional newsroom in-crowd"; and I might add, Asian Americans.

"So let's be real. Discrimination in the newsroom—in hiring, in the quality of assignments and promotions—is a much more pervasive problem than Jayson Blair's aberrant behavior. A black reporter told me angrily last week, 'After hundreds of years in America, we are still on probation.'"

Mr. Speaker, that is why I think this is extremely important. Thank you, Mr. Herbert, for your commentary. How striking and how truthful, to be able to highlight the fact that what we really have a problem with is not enough African Americans on editorial boards and newspapers across the Nation, or African Americans behind the camera making editorial decisions in the electronic media, whether it be radio or television.

Jayson is not the problem; Mr. Blair is not the problem. We all hope and wish for him some sort of recuperative regrouping, and certainly whatever penalties will come to him personally. But his downfall at *The New York Times* should not be the downfall of all reporters all over the Nation. I would just simply ask my colleagues to make sure that we are not pointing to someone who clearly has his own severe problems.

I believe that we can get past this by working very hard together on establishing what should be the right kind of attitude about affirmative action. That is, of course, that it brings about the opportunity for diversity and it brings about the opportunity for improving the access of all Americans to the great workplaces and the talents that all of us deserve to see.

I wish all of those in newsrooms around America the reckoning and the respect for all who may be there. Certainly I hope that they will encourage diversity and reach out for diversity.

To all of those who happen to be African American, Hispanic, women, Asian American and others who are in the newsroom, they should do the right kind of job, stand up and be proud, and reflect upon the wonderment of their heritage, so that as readers are reading, they can see in actuality a different perspective reflected by their uniqueness, their talent, their intellect, and their ability to write.

Might I also make note of the fact that I am very proud of my young son, Jason Lee, who just recently won a

writing contest. He is in the 11th grade. I would encourage all who are involved in training young people to encourage them to write. It is one of the most important skills that I think we can have, and I would hope that we would do so.

Mr. Speaker, I think that as we look at these issues, it is important as well to continue to look at civil justice and civil rights issues. I would like to again focus on a civil rights issue by focusing on the predicament of individuals in Tulia, Texas, where tens of individuals were locked up on the testimony of an errant police officer.

Now, I have the greatest respect for law enforcement. We work a lot together. I am a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. I want to salute much of the law enforcement in the State of Texas and Houston that I have had a chance to work with, so I do not broad brush. But I know that we have had our share of enormous difficulties and racial incidents that law enforcement personnel have, unfortunately, contributed to.

We have a large problem in this country regarding racial profiling, and we have yet to pass a serious racial profiling legislative initiative in this Congress. We have a problem that we have not passed a hate crimes bill, and we have difficulties in getting that bill even to be heard in the Committee on the Judiciary. I believe that we have a lot of work to do.

In this instance, in Tulia, Texas, and I want to applaud the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for a briefing I joined them in, and as well to applaud the Committee on the Judiciary of the House, because we expect to have a hearing on this very point in the very near future.

I will be authoring a resolution to condemn what occurred in Tulia, Texas, and that is tens of African Americans not only arrested but convicted on bogus drug charges. They were individuals who were charged, and they were released after they could document that they were not even in the town at the time the incidents occurred. But it was so reckless and random, and the justice was so fleeting. In fact, there was no justice, because individuals were able to be indicted and convicted on the testimony of one law officer, or police person, who subsequently was then undermined and shown to be lacking in integrity and the truth.

It is time now to have those who are in prison released immediately. Might I applaud Senator John Whitmire for his courage and his legislation in the State senate of Texas indicating and requesting and demanding that these individuals be released.

It would be a shame if the legislature that tried to bombard a redistricting plan that had no sense and was obviously developed by a meat cutter, there would be a tragedy if there could not be some good after this incident. That would be to pass Senator Whitmire's

legislation on unanimous consent. Forgive me if I am suggesting a procedural point that is not allowed in the Texas senate.

But if it is to be considered in that manner, I would encourage my friends in Texas to take up Senator Whitmire's bill and to have those individuals released. If that is not the case, then what would be the best thing to occur? Mr. Governor, Governor Perry, why do you not do the right thing and why do you not, by executive order, ask that these individuals be pardoned and released from the prison, because it has been shown without a doubt that the sentences that they have been rendered are sentences that are inappropriate, and that they have been convicted on false charges, and that they should be released?

It is very important that we do so, and I hope that out of the work of Senator Whitmire, out of the hearing we will have in the Committee on the Judiciary, I hope that we will find an opportunity, if you will, to release these innocent persons.

I had the opportunity to meet the mother and another individual, I believe, that had been impacted, of some of the incarcerated persons. What a sad occasion that mothers were celebrating Mother's Day without their children. Some mothers had two and three and four children arrested, convicted, and jailed. What an outrage.

Then they found out that the actual basis of this case was on one single individual's testimony. That individual, upon further hearing, when they were brought to trial on the basis of the lawyers that had been retained or chosen to help these individuals that are incarcerated, they found that his case was made of nothing but a bag of air and a bucket of water with holes in it.

I think it is time now that we address the inequity. I would say it is time we free the Tulia incarcerated persons, free them now. I would ask the Governor to do the right thing, the Governor of the State of Texas to do the right thing and release these individuals. It is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, I might say that this has gained a lot of support in the State of Texas. This is not an isolated and, if you will, covered-up circumstance. It is appropriate for the Governor to act. I would hope that he would do the right thing and the respectful thing and allow these individuals to go free.

I want to step aside from civil rights issues for a moment and just go into, again, as I said this is a litany of issues that I think is very important. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) in his work with Haitians. Preceding him was his mother, Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

I would join him in the resolution that he has filed today in celebration of Haitians, Haitian-Americans to acknowledge that there are 1.2 million Haitian-Americans in this country, 700,000 in the Florida area, and to also celebrate and commemorate with them

Flag Day, May 18, and to salute the kind of friendship that Haiti has had with the United States and apologize to them for not keeping that friendship at the level it should be.

□ 2230

Frankly, I believe that we have done a disservice to our Haitian friends by not giving them parity as it relates to immigration laws and allowing them to have, because of the oppressive nature and the unfortunate economy in Haiti and over the years the oppressive nature of the government, we are now trying to work with the present government. I am not suggesting that the government is not trying, but I am saying that the Haitians live in abject poverty and there is a great need to respond to their immigration needs as they seek opportunity. Some of them are, if you will, in jeopardy of losing their lives because of the political viewpoint they take.

I would suggest that we look closely at the legislation many of us have offered over the sessions, and that is to allow Haitians who flee because of political oppression and also abject poverty, where there is no opportunity whatsoever for them to survive, I would suggest that we look closely at providing them the kind of status that the Cubans receive when they are able to reach the shores of the United States of America.

This will of course upset many, but we have always had a disjointed immigration policy in the United States, and I think we do ourselves a disservice by not understanding that we are not gaining by having an immigration policy.

I have heard my good friend on the floor of the House day after day after day, month after month after month. I do not disagree with those who believe that we have to find a way to stem the tide of illegal immigration. I certainly agree with that. I also agree that we must secure our borders, and it certainly would be hypocritical for me to be on the Select Committee on Homeland Security and not provide the resources of increased border patrol agents, of high technology, with the kind of radioactive equipment that can detect illegal goods and persons coming across the border. But we have to recognize as well that we are surrounded by nations whose economy is in shambles, and people look to the United States with great hope and inspiration. And, unfortunately, sometimes they have gotten a one-way ticket to death.

So as I mention the Haitians I think it is important to note that that country is in shambles. We are working with it. I hope the President of the country will be able to restore democracy and governmental procedures and law and order and the economy. That is not the case now, and so people seek opportunity. They do not come here just to do us harm. And as they do not come here to do us harm, I think it is

important then that we find a sensible way to have the right kind of immigration policy, and some of the policies that my colleagues want to project, it just makes simply no sense.

You will absolutely never close the borders of the United States in total. Why? Because the United States benefits economically from trade with Canada and trade with its friends in the southern hemisphere.

Today we were told that the largest amount of trade comes in through Canada. So you are not going to be able to just absolutely close our borders with no punitive measures coming towards you. It is just absolutely not going to happen. So what do we do?

Well, I have filed legislation called Earned Access to Legalization, a bill that saw one million petitioners in the last Congress petition so that we could find an intelligent, reasonable, compassionate, humanitarian way to deal with individuals who are already here. And these are undocumented aliens who are working, owning homes, paying taxes, maybe even have bank accounts but are still under what we call the radar screen because we are not allowing them to access legalization. Their children are not legal. Their extended family is not legal. What sense does that make, Mr. Speaker, when we could have these individuals documented or give them access to legalization?

My legislation does not say to bestow citizenship automatically without any other procedures in place. It does not say give them citizenship if they have a criminal record. What it says, Mr. Speaker, that if you have continuously been in the United States from 3 to 5 years we will allow you to access the process of becoming a citizen. We will pull the sheets off of those who are hiding. We will let the sunshine come down on those hard-working immigrants who are paying taxes and simply want to make good.

I want to pay tribute to a constituent of mine who owns the restaurant Hugo. He was highlighted in the Houston Chronicle. He came across the border illegally but yet today owns one of the fastest-growing restaurants, the most attractive restaurant. He did not come to do harm. He pulled himself up by the bootstraps.

I am sure this is not going to be a welcoming sound to those who may be listening. Hugo tried five times to come to the United States, and others who helped bring him did as well. And they came illegally, no, not to do harm but because they were living in abject poverty, but because their family needed the resources, because they were given the impression that there was a golden rainbow in the United States of America.

What are we going to do? Turn off all the televisions of those in the world who believe we live in a world of democracy, in a Nation that is rich and prosperous, and that the people have an opportunity to work? I do not believe that we are going to be able to

dispel the myth or the real story that we live in grandeur here in the United States, so we must find a way of balance.

Hugo should be celebrated for the fact that he did pull himself up by his bootstraps, and here he is providing and contributing to the economy of the United States, providing jobs to hard-working immigrants, people with legal status and working throughout the community to be someone who we are very proud of.

That is what we need to do in providing a balance with our immigration policy: Document those who are here and find a way to provide an economic engine in the countries that are to our southern border in order to ensure that people who live there have the right kind of economy, that they can live in their country in dignity.

President Vicente Fox had raised this discussion with President Bush, of course. It has been dropped like a hot potato, unfortunately. The tragedy of 9/11, of which we do not give any disrespect to, it is an enormous tragedy, and we are still working to overcome the pain of those families. We must now address again this question of immigration. We realize that the individuals who perpetrated that horrific tragedy, most of them came in on illegal visas. That is not immigration. That is a visitor's visa. And so we must tighten the requirements.

But we must be fair as well as it relates to countries around the world and not penalize one group of countries versus another, but we must ensure that we restrict and put in place the right kind of procedures dealing with those who are seeking visas.

As I visited Doha, Qatar I was able to sit in, in India I was able to sit in on the visa procedures in our embassies, and I must say I see a new and different approach, and certainly there are those who are turned away.

As I look at that process I want to turn back to the process of illegal immigrants or aliens and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, by putting our heads in the sand we will not have a cogent immigration policy that addresses the question of the individuals who want to come here and seek an opportunity. Might I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that we utilize these individuals.

In fact, there are many Members of Congress, and I know our committee will be holding a hearing, the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims will be holding a hearing dealing with the guest worker program. We actually create vehicles for individuals to come in temporarily and work for industries that could not do without them.

So why are we trying to come to the floor of the House and bash immigrants when we know full well that this economy is churned by those who have come to work? What we must ensure, however, is that we do not eliminate the work opportunities for the many Americans who are unemployed, but we have got to get a handle around our

immigration policy and make it have some sense.

For that reason, let me also bring up and raise and suggest that this past weekend Texas experienced an enormous tragedy again, Mr. Speaker, tied into the immigration issue. Individuals crossing the border, no matter what tragedies they have heard of before, what obstacles they have to overcome, what frightening experiences they have, they are still coming because they view the United States as a place of opportunity.

Well, there are ways of addressing this question; and tragically this weekend we saw this past week the deaths of 19 individuals being smuggled into the United States, including a father and son who had just been abandoned by the son's mother and were coming to the United States for a new opportunity, for a fresh look at life, and that 5-year-old boy died in that heated and horrible and horrific truck in the trailer part of the truck where people literally smothered to death, where there was no air. A more vicious death one could not expect.

Mr. Speaker, I think it impacted the Houston area more than we could ever imagine. Memorials were held this past Sunday because so many of those individuals had relatives that lived in the Houston area. My sympathy goes out to them. For those who look in mockery saying that this did not have to happen if they had not done it in the first place, you can continue to stick your head in the sand, but I can tell you this will continue to happen. But we must stamp out the illegal aspect of what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, I am authoring the Anti-Smuggling Prevention Act of 2003 because I believe that the participants of this terrible and horrific crime believed that this was easy money. The truck driver, I believe, thought that this was an easy deal. He did not live in the State of Texas. I understand it was a possible cash payment of upwards of \$5,000. He thought that there was going to be no problem, just driving some folk over the border and into certain areas up to Houston, Texas, but not knowing the dastardly deed that was about to occur. Certainly was not a physician, was not a medical professional, was not a scientist and did not bother to worry about whether there was air in the trailer.

So who is now counting the dollars? The smuggling ring, and that is who we need to stamp out. I believe we need to enhance the penalties, not on the issue of death, because we already have penalties that are severe if death results. But we need to enhance the penalties just on the fact that you involved yourself in smuggling human beings. The fact that you are smuggling human beings is so horrific and tragedies can occur that you should realize that your jail time is going to be painful and long.

I think also that we should reward informants who actually bring out in-

formation that will result in a conviction, and the informants should be given cash rewards.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that we should look at on a humanitarian case-by-case situation for those individuals who are illegal aliens who are able to smash the smuggling ring, the big guys, the guys who are counting the dollars, they are money laundering, they are smuggling human beings, they are smuggling drugs, to smash those smuggling rings on a humanitarian basis. I believe it is important that those individuals be looked upon to be able to access legalization.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that this was an enormous tragedy in Houston, and I want to share just some of the description. This is taken from an article out of USA Today on May 19, 2003:

"Temperatures in Texas already reach into the 90s and 100s daily. That raises the risk enormously for those hiding in 18 wheelers and railcars which have replaced panel trucks and vans as a preferred way to smuggle larger groups.

"A trailer is not a mode of transportation for human being, says Xavier Rios, a supervisor agent for the Border Patrol in Harlingen. Neither is a train or car."

If I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that I mentioned Hugo who now owns a restaurant, that is how he first came to the United States, I believe, in a railcar.

Until the week before the 9/11 attacks, President Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox were working on a safer way for Mexicans to travel back and forth. I think this should be broadened to all immigrants because we are certainly going to face this over and over again.

It is time for a change. I would commend my colleagues to look at the Earned Access to Legalization legislation. We can reform, if you will, our immigration policy. We need to understand that people are going to continue to come no matter how much we go to the floor of the House and preach otherwise and speak against the idea of immigration. The only way you are going to beat this is to have a rational immigration policy that keeps out the terrorists and the guys that want to do bad things and the criminals and others but allows a reasonable way to address the question of those who are simply begging to come to this country for greater opportunity.

The advocates clearly note that this was a tragedy, and this article also says, It is like a big splash of cold water on people's faces when they see and hear that a 7-year-old died because he could not get enough air and all he wanted to do, says Angela Kelley of the National Immigration Forum, but all he wanted to do was to simply be with his father and to be able to come to the United States. The victims near Victoria reportedly range from a 5-year-old boy to a man in his 90s.

So this is a question that should be addressed immediately, and I have asked the chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims for us to have an immediate hearing so that we can address this larger question and also address the question of truckers who may think that this is easy money. I believe we have not done an effective job in getting to trucking companies and to truckers and to union halls about the tragedies that could occur.

□ 2245

And I believe also that after providing this outreach and informational campaign, that trucking companies which the trucks may belong to should lose their license along with the truck driver. This is not an attempt to penalize those persons who are simply seeking a livelihood. What it is, however, is an attempt to keep them from doing things that will harm them or to keep them from taking actions that will have them wind up in jail for a very long period of time. We failed in educating the public about how dastardly an act smuggling is, and I think it is high time to do so.

So I hope that my colleagues will join me on the Anti-Smuggling Prevention Act to toughen prison terms for these violators. And this is to do so on a preventive basis, so that if they know they are going to be incarcerated for a period of time, if they even think about doing smuggling for someone else, if they think about doing their bidding, then they will find out they will spend a lot of time in jail. I hope that we can begin to save lives.

This was such an enormous tragedy, Mr. Speaker, that we will probably not overcome that for a very long period of time.

In looking at the world from a different perspective, I think it is also important to come home a little bit and to look at what we have to do to fulfill the promise that was made to America as relates to the Iraqi war. First of all, I think we should just restate the fact that the war in Iraq did not solve the problem of terrorism.

We do need to acknowledge, as we move this week toward commemorating and honoring those who lost their lives, that they will be forever heroes in our minds, and as well to make note of those who have recently lost their lives in Iraq in a recent helicopter crash. We mourn their lives and, more importantly, we send our deepest sympathies to their families. We will never divide this Nation on the question of supporting our troops and honoring them and their families who lost loved ones during this period of time. That was an enormous tragedy.

But we must build on what was represented to be an effort to bring democracy to Iraq. I believe that we are not moving in the right direction. It is important that we work on the aftermath of Iraq and we do so in a way that clearly suggests to the world that the

United States and Britain are still not trying to go it alone and that we draw into the understanding of the importance of rebuilding Iraq a collaborative effort.

We have to be sensitive about a U.N. resolution that only puts the names or only focuses on Spain, Britain, and the United States. We have to begin to collaborate with our long-standing allies, our European allies, allies like India. We have to recognize that it was Doha, Qatar, that allowed us to have the central command hosted there. So we must work with our other Arab allies, as well, as we seek to rebuild.

The reason is because we have a larger fight, as evidenced by the incidences that occurred in Morocco and Saudi Arabia last week, the loss of lives of Americans. We do not know when the next unfortunate terrorist act may occur. We do not stand here to promote hysteria, but reason and rationale. It is important the President realize we cannot go and do this alone. We cannot go it alone as the United States of America. It seems that we are attempting to do that.

We have to be able to draw in the United Nations and our NATO allies, and it is important that we begin to establish a stable currency that will be tied to not only the U.S. dollar but the Euros and other currency; to find an appropriate balance between debt forgiveness and debt repayment; to engage the WTO and IMF to ensure an international commitment to Iraqi success. But also, as we look to those possible support systems, we have to look to the NGOs, the nongovernmental organizations around the world, including those smaller ones that may be located in Los Angeles; Houston, Texas; New York; Jackson, Mississippi; Paris, France; or London, England.

We must begin to formulate an NGO advisory committee. We know the Red Cross is there. The American Red Cross has done an outstanding job. But I believe it is important to draw on NGOs from around the world that may have a commonality with the people of Iraq, either by way of the faith that they are professing or the understanding of their culture, and begin to have that coalition work in collaboration to put in democratic structures in Iraq.

We can already see that there is massive disorder, lack of law and order; that there is confusion; that systems are not working. And even as Ambassador Bremer attempts to work very hard to do so, it is important to note that we cannot do it alone. I would encourage the work of Ambassador Bremer to be inclusive and to work alongside nongovernmental organizations. And, in fact, I am proposing a Marshall Plan, alongside the plan that we need to rebuild America. We want to make sure that we have a somewhat similar focus that we had after World War II, and it worked, and we did so with our allies. I believe that is extremely important, and I hope we will pay heed to that.

Let me say also that I intend this week to denounce, if you will, the lack of urgency and speed that the administration has utilized in reaching out to small, medium-sized, minority, and women-owned businesses in helping to rebuild Iraq. One of the things that I gleaned from visiting in Doha, Qatar, is that part of the success of diplomacy is relationships, relationships with Members of Congress, relationships with members of government, of the administration. We are losing relationships in the Arab world, with our Arab allies. I believe to ensure that we regain those relationships, it is extremely important that we include small, medium-sized, and minority-owned businesses to be able to not only do the work in helping to rebuild Iraq but to develop relationships with the people in the Arab countries and to develop relationships with the people in Iraq.

It is interesting and confusing, though certainly some of these are Texas companies, that we have these major companies, huge multiconglomerates, if you will, and large contracts with the Department of Defense; and they cannot find the opportunities for other sized companies who have the same or equal expertise, just smaller, to collaborate with or do joint ventures with. I think the Defense Department needs to respond immediately on the processes used to select Halliburton and Bechtel; and I believe that these companies should work immediately with minority-owned businesses, medium-sized businesses, and small businesses.

I am informed that USAID has about \$2.5 billion, and we are looking forward to working with USAID in using smaller minority-owned companies and women-owned businesses; but the Department of Defense has the largest share, and there seems to be some doubt that we can find minority, small, and medium-sized and women-owned businesses that can collaborate and do the engineering work, the technological work, the oil and gas work, the protecting of the oil well. But I am here to tell you I am from Texas, and that is not true.

It is extremely important, and I encourage these small, medium-sized, minority-owned, women-owned businesses to begin to seek information from the Department of Defense. And those of us who are interested in this topic will continue to pursue that closely.

Let me quickly move, Mr. Speaker, to two very important items that have been disturbing me and have been misrepresented, I think, to the American public. First, let me say that I have the greatest respect for NASA, as a member of the House Committee on Science. The greatest respect. And I am honored to have been able to serve on the House Committee on Science since 1995, and particularly on the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. I am delighted to serve there with very esteemed colleagues, the ranking member of the committee, the chairman of

the committee, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and the chairman. I know, in particular, that the ranking member of the subcommittee has been extremely vocal on expressing the need for a review by this Congress of Columbia VII.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, even though the investigatory body is still proceeding, I sense an urgency that they do their job and do it well but that the Congress and the House in particular begins to have hearings. And let me suggest to you why, as I read to you some very disturbing testimony and commentary in an article from the *Houston Chronicle* dated May 17, 2003. And, Mr. Speaker, might I say that we have been speaking about the issues of safety now for at least 6 to 8 years, the question of whether NASA has spent enough money.

This is not a question of Republicans and Democrats, not a question of a Democratic administration or a Republican administration. It is a question of me being outraged that time after time in putting the question on the record: What about safety? Are we funding safety? Do we have enough money for safety? Have we looked at an escape module? Even before this terrible tragedy. There are those of us from Texas who lived through the Challenger tragedy. I watched the Challenger as it exploded, and I know the family members. I know the family members that are living through this now. If we do anything to give them homage or to pay tribute to their loved ones, it is to insist that NASA begin to address through funding needs as well by design a safety program that can make this the right kind of program.

I am an avid supporter of human space flight, Mr. Speaker. An avid supporter. And I want to see humans in space and the Shuttle reinvigorated, as well as the work we have done, the cargo we have taken, the research, the discoveries regarding diabetes, the discoveries regarding HIV/AIDS, as well as stroke and heart disease. Miracles have occurred. But here is a commentary from Admiral Gehman:

"The safety organization sits right beside the person making the decision, but behind the safety organization there is nothing there, no people, money, engineering, expertise, analysis," said Gehman. "The engineers sit right to the other side, but the engineering department is not independently funded. The engineers all have to obtain funding from the space flight program. So their allegiance is to the program. The system is so flawed that even sweeping changes in leadership would be ineffective," Gehman argued. "We find the safety organization on paper is perfect, but when you bore down a little deeper, you don't find anything there," he said. "You will get the same wrong answers no matter how many times you convene the boards. It doesn't make any difference who the chairman is."

Mr. Speaker, this is indicting. Safety is there on paper, but there is nothing

there? And year after year, no matter what kind of administration we had, Mr. Speaker, they kept saying over and over again, oh yes, we are funding safety. It's safe. They are well trained.

Now, I am not here, Mr. Speaker, to call any names or to castigate any unfortunate soul who happened to have been part of that launch and who will ultimately have to answer to those who will raise the questions. I am here, Mr. Speaker, to save lives and to remind my good friends at NASA that we have repeatedly questioned you about safety factors and you have repeatedly, administrator after administrator, two that I have known, said the same thing. How in the world can we do this to the brave men and women that we challenge to go into space not for themselves but because of us?

So I am demanding, Mr. Speaker, immediate hearings to be held in the United States House of Representatives on the question of safety and the potential of an escape module, and I believe it is imperative that all of the documents that relate to this issue be presented to this body immediately. I think we fail in our job, we abdicate our responsibility if we, the Members of the House of Representatives, cannot join in having a full hearing on this matter and as well to move through the appropriations process and actually put in a mark that has the word NASA, and then under it, safety; shuttle, and under it, safety, and a line item of funding. This is an abomination and it must stop now.

Let me, Mr. Speaker, mention, if we are talking about money, and to sort of come to a reasonable conclusion, that we look at where we are and why we have so many difficulties as relates to our funding. And that is, of course, the \$550 billion tax cut that is now making its way through the United States Congress. And of course for those of us who vigorously opposed this tax cut, it seems that we are continually trying to defend ourselves.

□ 2300

Let me provide Members with a very simple explanation why I am opposed to it: because we have the largest unemployment that we have had I believe in the last 2 decades; because I believe Chairman Greenspan is hesitant about moving this Nation towards this huge tax cut; because the war on terrorism requires us to invest deeply, if you will, in homeland security and to promote terrorism as our number one issue of trying to thwart.

So utilizing this money to give the top 1 percent of our population a tax cut is not an engine that will boost the economy. Using this \$550 billion to give \$40 billion to those making \$374,000 is not going to gain any number of jobs, nor is the cut in dividends going to infuse the economy with any great amount of activity.

In fact, those corporations say that a dividend tax cut is not going to do anything but cause them to escrow their

money and those who get a tax cut on the dividends I imagine are simply going to put it in their savings accounts.

But out of the \$550 billion, the number of jobs you will create are 1 million. That means it will take \$550,000 to create 1 million jobs, so one job will cost \$550,000. So when you spend \$1 million under the President's plan, you only get two jobs. If you were to take the plan that the Democrats are offering and invest \$1 million into transportation, for example, you get 13 jobs. If you invested \$1 million into local passenger rail, you get 15 jobs. If you invested it into State and local health care programs where States are seeing their health budgets implode, Medicaid going down the tube and people being thrown off Medicaid every day, 26 jobs would be created.

If we did it in public education, where in the State of Texas they are firing teachers, you would create 28 jobs. And if you invested it in fire and police, my good friends in Texas but also all over the Nation, the first responders who are still waiting for their homeland security money, they would get 27 jobs. Under the President's plan, a \$550 billion tax cut, the number of jobs that it proposes to create are 1 million that cost \$550,000 per job; and out of a million dollars, out of this plan, you only get two jobs per \$1 million.

Down here, and I am saying it again because it is so shocking: transportation, 13 jobs; local passenger rail, 15 jobs; State and local health care, 26; public education, 28; and, of course, police and fire, 27.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better in this Congress. I can show that the tax cuts do little for my constituents. Those average tax cuts get \$136, and those who are the high income get \$13,000. I am going to get a \$136 check for most of my constituents, and a few will get \$13,000.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an attempt to remind this Congress that we have come here not to work for ourselves but to work for our constituents. There are many grievances that we are facing around the Nation; and, unfortunately, these issues have not been solved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity to present these issues, and I hope that my colleagues will continue to roll up their sleeves and address the grievances of America and realize that we have come here to represent all of America and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CASE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and before 4:00 p.m. on May 20 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. JEFFERSON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. KANJORSKI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and before noon on May 20 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. ENGLISH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of being unavoidably detained.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TOOMEY (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDLIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GONZALEZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KLINE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CULBERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, May 20.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, May 20.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 459. An act to ensure that a public safety officer who suffers a fatal heart attack or stroke while on duty shall be presumed to have died in the line of duty for purposes of public safety officer survivor benefits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 535. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty, to the Committee on House Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-authorized official travel during the third quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2002

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Johnny Isakson (to participate in CODEL Dreier).	7/28	8/1	Moscow/St. Petersburg, Russia		1,402.00		(³)				1,402.00
	8/1	8/2	Tallinn, Estonia		202.00		(³)				202.00
	8/2	8/4	Tbilisi, Georgia		536.00		(³)				536.00
	8/4	8/6	Larnaca, Cyprus		516.00		(³)				516.00
	8/6	8/7	Reykjavik, Iceland		321.00		(³)				321.00
Hon. Patrick Tiberi	7/14	7/14	Guantanamo Bay, Cuba				(³)				
Hon. George Miller	8/28	9/4	Johannesburg, South Africa		1,751.73		6,402.49				8,154.22
Stephen Moody	8/26	9/4	Johannesburg, South Africa		2,005.73		6,402.49				8,408.22
Committee total					6,734.46		12,804.98				19,539.44

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

JOHN A. BOEHNER, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2003.

AMENDED REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Ann Witt	2/23	3/1	Switzerland		2,130.00		6,392.39				
Hon. Christopher Shays	1/17	1/19	Sweden		313.00		2,071.02				
Vincent Chase	1/17	1/19	Sweden		313.00		2,071.02				
Lawrence Halloran	1/17	1/19	Sweden		313.00		2,071.02				
Hon. Mark Souder	1/31	2/1	Belgium		238.00		7,153.42				
	2/1	2/3	France		948.00		110.40				
	2/3	2/5	Germany		306.00		450.00				
Christopher Donesa	1/31	2/1	Belgium		238.00		7,153.42				
	2/1	2/3	France		948.00		110.40				
	2/3	2/5	Germany		306.00		450.00				
Thomas Costa	2/17	2/19	Austria		528.00		6,602.47				

AMENDED REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
David Rapallo	2/19	2/21	Croatia		482.00						
	2/21	2/24	Germany		966.00						
	2/17	2/19	Austria		528.00		6,602.47				
	2/19	2/21	Croatia		482.00						
Peter Sirh	2/21	2/24	Germany		966.00						
	2/17	2/19	Austria		528.00		6,602.47				
	2/19	2/21	Croatia		482.00						
Jason Chung	2/21	2/24	Germany		966.00						
	2/17	2/19	Austria		528.00		6,602.47				
	2/19	2/21	Croatia		482.00						
	2/21	2/24	Germany		966.00						
Hon. Tom Davis	2/18	2/20	Colombia		450.00						
Hon. Mark Souder	2/18	2/20	Colombia		450.00						
Hon. James Moran	2/18	2/20	Colombia		450.00						
Christopher Donesa	2/18	2/20	Colombia		450.00						
Todd Russell Platts	2/15	2/19	Israel		1,812.00		5,566.09		4,635.38		
Committee total					17,569.00		69,009.06		4,635.38		82,213.44

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

TOM DAVIS, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2003.

AMENDED REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Gary Ackerman	2/16	2/20	Israel		1,810.00		5,600.40				7,410.40
Hon. Cass Ballenger	2/14	2/16	Venezuela		352.00		2,718.17				3,070.17
Patrick Brennan	2/14	2/16	Venezuela		680.00		2,535.17				3,215.17
Hon. Steve Chabot	2/15	2/20	Israel		1,448.00		3,645.00				5,093.00
Malik Chaka	2/15	2/22	Democratic Rep. of Congo		1,776.00		6,583.48				8,359.48
Joan Condon	2/15	2/22	Democratic Rep. of Congo		1,776.00		6,583.48				8,359.48
Hon. William Delahunt	2/14	2/16	Venezuela		352.00		2,940.17				3,292.17
Kristen Gilley	1/13	1/16	France		798.00		6,020.69				6,818.69
Matthew Gobush	2/14	2/20	Russia		1,720.00						1,720.00
	2/20	2/21	Germany		335.00						335.00
	2/21	2/24	Hungary		1,016.00						1,016.00
	2/24	2/25	United Kingdom		211.55		4,643.27				4,854.82
Hon. Mark Green	12/25	1/1	Kenya		1,386.00		8,098.17				9,484.17
Hon. Henry Hyde	1/18	1/21	United Kingdom		1,538.00		6,542.74				8,080.74
Hon. William Janklow	2/15	2/20	Israel		1,448.00		3,645.90				5,093.90
Jonathan Katz	3/5	3/8	Turkey		546.00		6,023.20				6,569.20
David Killion	1/9	1/10	Switzerland		294.00						294.00
	1/10	1/16	France		1,596.00		6,280.48				7,876.48
	2/19	2/22	Austria		927.57		5,400.60				6,328.17
Robert King	2/15	2/20	Russia		1,720.00						1,720.00
	2/20	2/21	Germany		335.00						335.00
	2/21	2/25	Hungary		1,016.00		6,276.75				7,292.75
Hon. Tom Lantos	2/15	2/20	Russia		2,270.00						2,270.00
	2/20	2/21	Germany		335.00						335.00
	2/21	2/25	Hungary		432.00		6,276.75				6,708.75
Alan Makovsky	2/15	2/20	Israel		1,237.00		3,645.90				4,882.90
	3/6	3/9	Turkey		736.00		5,273.34				6,009.34
Tanya Mazin	2/16	2/19	Russia		1,032.00						1,032.00
	2/19	2/20	United Kingdom		399.00		4,716.26				5,115.26
Caleb McCarray	1/3	1/6	Haiti		525.00		1,142.70				1,667.70
	2/14	2/16	Venezuela		680.00		2,535.17				3,215.17
Hon. Gregory Meeks	2/14	2/16	Venezuela		352.00		2,528.17				2,880.17
Paul Oostburg-Sanz	2/14	2/16	Venezuela		680.00		2,535.17				3,215.17
Yleem Poblete	1/9	1/10	Switzerland		294.00						294.00
	1/10	1/16	France		1,596.00		6,379.48				7,975.48
	2/15	2/20	Israel		1,448.00		3,645.90				5,093.90
Francis Record	1/13	1/16	France		748.00		6,021.00				6,769.00
Walker Roberts	1/17	1/21	United Kingdom		1,949.00		5,822.74				7,771.74
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	2/15	2/19	Israel		1,448.00		3,517.90		25,498.00		30,463.90
Hon. Edward Royce	1/10	1/12	Namibia		337.00						337.00
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00						218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		765.00						765.00
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(³)				603.00
Doug Seay	1/17	1/21	United Kingdom		1,949.00		5,822.74				7,771.74
Thomas Sheehy	1/10	1/12	Namibia		337.00						337.00
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00						218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		765.00						765.00
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(³)				603.00
Sam Stratman	1/17	1/21	United Kingdom		1,949.00		5,822.74				7,771.74
Hillel Weinberg	3/5	3/9	Turkey		819.00		5,273.34				6,092.34
Hon. Robert Wexler	3/5	3/8	Turkey		546.00		6,023.20				6,569.20
Judy Wollerton	1/18	1/21	United Kingdom		1,538.00		6,542.74				8,080.74
Peter Yeo	1/18	1/18	China				1,888.50				1,888.50
Matthew Zweig	2/15	2/20	Israel		1,448.00		3,645.90				5,093.90
John Mackey	1/20	1/25	Colombia		875.00		1,852.90				2,727.90
Committee total					52,212.12		174,450.21				252,160.33

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HENRY J. HYDE, Chairman, May 1, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Richard E. Efford	1/16	1/17	Australia		225.00						225.00
	1/17	1/22	New Zealand		980.00						980.00
	1/21	1/24	USA (Hawaii)		680.00						680.00
Commercial airfare							8,527.74				8,527.74
Hon. Harold R. Rogers	1/10	1/12	USA (Hawaii)		138.00						138.00
	1/13	1/17	Australia		900.00						900.00
	1/17	1/22	New Zealand		980.00						980.00
	1/21	1/24	USA (Hawaii)		744.00						744.00
Stephanie K. Gupta	1/10	1/11	USA (Hawaii)		177.00						177.00
	1/13	1/17	Australia		900.00						900.00
	1/17	1/18	New Zealand		196.00						196.00
								99.41		99.41	
							8,210.20				8,210.20
Leigha Shaw	1/10	1/12	USA (Hawaii)		286.00						286.00
	1/12	1/17	Australia		1,125.00						1,125.00
	1/17	1/21	New Zealand		900.00						900.00
	1/20	1/24	USA (Hawaii)		928.00						928.00
Commercial airfare							8,075.94				8,075.94
Beverly Pheto	1/13	1/17	Australia		900.00						900.00
	1/17	1/20	New Zealand		615.00						615.00
Commercial airfare							8,914.11				8,914.11
Hon. Martin Sabo	1/10	1/12	USA		138.00						138.00
	1/13	1/17	Australia		900.00						900.00
	1/17	1/22	New Zealand		980.00						980.00
	1/21	1/24	USA (Hawaii)		744.00						744.00
Hon. Jim Kolbe	1/3	1/6	Haiti		575.00						575.00
Commercial airfare							1,142.70				1,142.70
Charles Flickner	1/3	1/6	Haiti		575.00						575.00
Commercial airfare							1,142.70				1,142.70
Hon. Frank Wolf	12/31	12/31	Eritrea		184.00						184.00
	12/31	1/3	Ethiopia		840.00						840.00
Commercial airfare							7,216.81				7,216.81
Hon. Jim Kolbe	1/22	1/24	Switzerland		588.00						588.00
Hon. John P. Murtha	1/20	1/21	Austria		148.00						148.00
	1/21	1/22	Belgium		352.00						352.00
Gregory R. Dahlberg	1/20	1/21	Austria		148.00						148.00
	1/21	1/22	Belgium		352.00						352.00
Hon. C.W. Bill Young	1/13	1/15	Crete		332.55						332.55
	1/15	1/16	Austria		355.56						355.56
	1/16	1/17	Belgium		358.21						358.21
Hon. Joe Knollenberg	1/13	1/15	Crete		332.55						332.55
	1/15	1/16	Austria		355.56						355.56
	1/16	1/17	Belgium		358.21						358.21
David Jolly	1/13	1/15	Crete		332.55						332.55
	1/15	1/16	Austria		355.56						355.56
	1/16	1/17	Belgium		358.21						358.21
Douglas Gregory	1/13	1/15	Crete		332.55						332.55
	1/15	1/16	Austria		355.56						355.56
	1/16	1/17	Belgium		358.21						358.21
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	1/13	1/15	Crete		332.55						332.55
	1/15	1/16	Austria		355.56						355.56
	1/16	1/17	Belgium		358.21						358.21
Hon. Jim Moran	2/18	2/20	Colombia		350.00						350.00
								100.00			100.00
Hon. Jerry Lewis	2/21	2/22	Bahrain		642.00						642.00
	2/23	2/24	Jordan		238.00						238.00
	2/24	2/25	Belgium		298.00						298.00
Hon. Norm Dicks	2/21	2/22	Bahrain		642.00						642.00
	2/23	2/24	Jordan		238.00						238.00
	2/24	2/25	Belgium		298.00						298.00
Douglas Gregory	2/21	2/22	Bahrain		642.00						642.00
	2/23	2/24	Jordan		238.00						238.00
	2/24	2/25	Belgium		298.00						298.00
Kevin Roper	2/21	2/22	Bahrain		642.00						642.00
	2/23	2/24	Jordan		238.00						238.00
	2/24	2/25	Belgium		298.00						298.00
Hon. John P. Murtha	2/28	3/1	Turkey		135.00						135.00
	3/1	3/1	Qatar								
	3/1	3/2	Kuwait		389.00						389.00
	3/2	3/3	Germany		337.00						337.00
Committee total					28,352.60		43,230.20		199.41		71,782.21

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BILL YOUNG, Chairman, Apr. 23, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Travel to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait, December 30, 2002–January 4, 2003:											
Hon. Ellen O. Tauscher	12/30	12/31	Saudi Arabia		225.00						225.00
	12/31	1/3	Bahrain		417.00						417.00
	1/3	1/4	Kuwait		778.00						778.00
Commercial airfare							6,125.40				6,125.40
Ms. Erin C. Conaton	12/30	12/31	Saudi Arabia		225.00						225.00
	12/31	1/3	Bahrain		417.00						417.00
	1/3	1/4	Kuwait		778.00						778.00
Commercial airfare							6,125.40				6,125.40
Travel to Russia and Austria, January 9–18, 2003:											
Hon. Curt Weldon	1/9	1/13	Russia		1,376.00						1,376.00
	1/16	1/18	Austria		204.00				3,547.75		3,751.75
Commercial airfare							5,040.68				5,040.68
Travel to Colombia, Brazil, Chile and Peru, January 15–25, 2003:											
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	1/15	1/19	Colombia		629.00						629.00
	1/19	1/21	Brazil		558.00						558.00
	1/21	1/23	Chile		548.00						548.00
	1/23	1/25	Peru		490.00						490.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare							5,035.74				5,035.74
Travel to Germany, Italy and France, January 16–24, 2003:											
Hon. John M. McHugh	1/16	1/19	Germany		870.00						870.00
	1/19	1/23	Italy		1,184.00						1,184.00
	1/23	1/24	France		236.00						236.00
Hon. Robin Hayes	1/16	1/19	Germany		870.00						870.00
	1/19	1/23	Italy		1,184.00						1,184.00
	1/23	1/24	France		236.00						236.00
Hon. Mike McIntyre	1/16	1/19	Germany		870.00						870.00
	1/19	1/23	Italy		1,184.00						1,184.00
	1/23	1/24	France		236.00						236.00
Hon. Jeff Miller	1/16	1/19	Germany		870.00						870.00
	1/19	1/23	Italy		1,184.00						1,184.00
	1/23	1/24	France		236.00						236.00
Mr. John D. Chapla	1/16	1/19	Germany		870.00						870.00
	1/19	1/23	Italy		1,184.00						1,184.00
	1/23	1/24	France		236.00						236.00
Ms. Debra Wada	1/16	1/19	Germany		870.00						870.00
	1/19	1/23	Italy		1,184.00						1,184.00
	1/23	1/24	France		236.00						236.00
Delegation expenses	1/23	1/24	France						58.64		58.64
Travel to Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom:											
Hon. Ike Skelton	1/16	1/17	Germany		706.00						706.00
	1/17	1/18	Belgium		309.00						309.00
	1/18	1/20	Germany		353.00						353.00
	1/20	1/21	United Kingdom		386.00						386.00
Mr. John J. Pollard	1/16	1/17	Germany		706.00						706.00
	1/17	1/18	Belgium		309.00						309.00
	1/18	1/20	Germany		353.00						353.00
	1/20	1/21	United Kingdom		386.00						386.00
Commercial airfare							2,731.84				2,731.84
Travel to the United Kingdom, January 19–20, 2003:											
Hon. Ellen O. Tauscher	1/19	1/20	United Kingdom		386.00						386.00
Commercial airfare							3,517.56				3,517.56
Travel to Colombia, January 19–22, 2003:											
Ms. Erin C. Conaton	1/19	1/22	Colombia		675.00						675.00
Commercial airfare							1,528.90				1,528.90
Travel to Colombia and El Salvador, January 19–22, 2003:											
Hon. Gene Taylor	1/19	1/21	Colombia		450.00						450.00
	1/21	1/22	El Salvador		213.00						213.00
Mr. William H. Natter	1/19	1/21	Colombia		450.00						450.00
	1/21	1/22	El Salvador		213.00						213.00
Travel to Ukraine, February 16–19, 2003:											
Hon. Curt Weldon	2/17	2/19	Ukraine		624.00						624.00
Commercial airfare							2,640.88				2,640.88
Committee total					26,904.00		32,746.40		3,606.39		63,256.79

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DUNCAN HUNTER, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	2/16	2/19	Israel		1,086.00		3,517.90				4,603.90
Committee total					1,086.00		3,517.90				4,603.90

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JIM NUSSLE, Chairman, April 29, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Ruben Hinojosa (to participate in CODEL Manzullo).	1/12	1/19	China		1,773.00		³ 273.00				2,046.00
Committee total					1,773.00		273.90				2,046.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

JOHN BOEHNER, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Ed Whitfield	3/7	3/9	Turkey		546.00		5,281.73				5,827.73
Hon. Vito Fossella	1/14	1/18	France	(³)	187.24		6,328.19	(⁴)	388.48		6,903.91
Hon. Darrell Issa	1/17	1/20	Israel		624.00		8,986.55				9,610.55
	1/20	1/22	Lebanon		250.00						
Hon. Mike Rogers	3/7	3/9	Turkey		683.00		5,273.34				5,956.34
Hon. Rick Boucher	2/15	2/18	England		1,197.00		5,613.4				6,810.04
	2/18	2/23	Belgium/Spain		1,532.00						1,532.00
Committee total					5,019.24		31,482.85		388.48		36,890.57

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ 174 Ecu.⁴ 352.28 Ecu.

BILLY TAUZIN, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Bernard Sanders	1/12	1/19	China		³ 1,773.00		⁴ 273.00				2,046.00
Hon. Barney Frank	3/9	3/11	Greece		314.00		4,640.04				4,954.04
Committee total					2,087.00		4,913.04				7,000.04

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Ground.⁴ Military air transportation.

MICHAEL G. OXLEY, Chairman, Apr. 25, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 24, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. F. James Sensenbrenner	2/16	2/24	India		2,525.00		5,861.75				8,386.75
Philip J. Kiko	2/16	2/24	India		2,525.00		5,861.75				8,386.75
Committee total					5,050.00		11,723.50				16,773.50

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr., Chairman, Apr. 24, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Linder	1/10	1/12	Hawaii, USA		138.00		(³)				138.00
	1/13	1/17	Australia		900.00		(³)				900.00
	1/18	1/22	New Zealand		980.00		(³)				980.00
	1/21	1/24	Hawaii, USA		744.00		(³)				744.00
Committee total					2,762.00						2,762.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

DAVID DREIER, Chairman, May 5, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Duncan	1/13	1/17	Australia		960.00		(³)				2,080.00
	1/17	1/22	New Zealand		1,025.00		(³)				1,025.00
	1/21	1/22	Hawaii		0.00		446.70				1,248.00
Committee total					1,985.00		446.70				4,353.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

DON YOUNG, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. J.D. Hayworth	1/13	1/16	Australia		900.00		(3)				900.00
	1/17	1/21	New Zealand		980.00		(3)				980.00
	1/13	1/16	Australia		900.00		(3)				900.00
Hon. Ron Lewis	1/17	1/21	New Zealand		980.00		(3)				980.00
Ms. Angela Ellard	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.70
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Ms. Allison Giles	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/01	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.70
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Mr. Robert Winters	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.70
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Mr. David Kavanaugh	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.00
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Ms. Meredith Broadbent	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.70
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Hon. Bill Thomas	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.70
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Hon. Jim Nussle	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.70
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Hon. Phil English	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/16	Mauritius		764.70		(3)				764.70
	1/16	1/18	South Africa		603.00		(3)				603.00
Hon. Jim McDermott	1/10	1/12	Nambia		337.00		(3)				337.00
	1/10	1/12	Nambia				665.64				665.64
	1/12	1/13	Madagascar		218.00		(3)				218.00
	1/13	1/18	Mauritius		1,274.50		(3)				1,274.50
Committee total											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

BILL THOMAS, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2003.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2003

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Chadwick Gore	1/12	1/11	USA				6,020.00				6,020.00
	1/12	1/23	Turkey		2,309.00						2,309.00
Knox Thames	1/12	1/11	USA				5,645.00				5,645.00
	1/12	1/19	Turkey		1,204.00						1,204.00
Janice Helwig	1/11	1/10	USA				5,387.00				5,387.00
	1/11	4/15	Austria		14,000.00						14,000.00
Maureen Walsh	2/14	2/14	USA				3,732.00				3,732.00
	2/15	2/21	Greece		1,059.00						1,059.00
Michael Ochs	2/15	2/14	USA				6,506.00				6,506.00
	2/21	2/21	Armenia		1,044.00		120.00				1,164.00
	2/21	2/23	Georgia		408.00						408.00
Dorothy Taft	3/1	2/28	USA				2,099.00				2,099.00
	3/1	3/8	Turkey		889.00						889.00
Donald Kursch	2/19	2/18	USA				5,400.00				5,400.00
	2/19	2/22	Austria		823.00						823.00
Marlene Kaufmann	2/19	2/18	USA				5,400.00				5,400.00
	2/19	2/22	Austria		738.00						738.00
Chadwick Gore	2/19	2/18	USA				5,400.00				5,400.00
	2/19	2/22	Austria		802.00						802.00
Hon. Benjamin Cardin	2/20	2/19	USA				5,390.00				5,390.00
	2/20	2/22	Austria		584.00						584.00
Hon. Alcee Hastings	2/19	2/18	USA				5,660.00				5,660.00
	2/19	2/22	Austria		876.00						876.00
Hon. Chris Smith	2/19	2/18	USA				2,653.00				2,653.00
	2/19	2/21	Austria		592.00		4,542.00				5,134.00
	2/21	2/22	United Kingdom		278.00						278.00
Hon. Steny Hoyer	2/19	2/18	USA				5,400.00				5,400.00
	2/19	2/22	Austria		888.00						888.00
Dorothy Taft	2/19	2/18	USA				2,653.00				2,653.00
	2/19	2/21	Austria		641.00		4,543.00				5,184.00
	2/21	2/22	United Kingdom		220.00						
Delegation Expenses	2/19	2/18	USA								
	2/19	2/22	Austria						17,088.00		17,088.00
Committee total					27,355.00		76,550.00		17,088.00		120,993.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

CHRIS SMITH, Apr. 30, 2003.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2258. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the retirement of Lieutenant General Robert C. Hinson, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2259. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled, "Capabilities of the Test and Evaluation Workforce of the Department of Defense"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2260. A letter from the Deputy Congressional Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Customer Identification Programs for Banks, Savings Associations, Credit Unions and Certain Non-Federally Regulated Banks (RIN: 1506-AA31) received May 13, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2261. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Electronic Storage of Broker-Dealer Records [Release No. 34-47806] received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2262. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the 2002 Annual Report of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 797(d); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2263. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Metal-Cored Candlewicks Containing Lead and Candles with Such Wickes — received May 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2264. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Exemption From Premarket Notification; Class II Devices; Optical Impression Systems for Computer Assisted Design and Manufacturing [Docket No. 02P-0494] received May 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2265. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

2266. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

2267. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report required by Section 1212 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

2268. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Stolen Property under Treaty with Mexico — received May 14, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

2269. A letter from the Executive Director, District of Columbia Retirement Board,

transmitting the Board's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1—732 and 1—734(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2270. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2271. A letter from the Director, Employment Service, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Excepted Service-Temporary Organizations (RIN: 3206-AJ70) received May 13, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2272. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting a copy of the Final Engineering Report for the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Water Supply System and the Dry Prairie Water System, pursuant to Public Law 106—382, section 4(g)(2) (114 Stat. 1453); to the Committee on Resources.

2273. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Document Incorporated by Reference for Fixed Platforms (RIN: 1010-AD03) received May 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2274. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended — Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons (RIN: 1400-AB23) received May 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2275. A letter from the Director, Federal Judicial Center, transmitting the Federal Judicial Center's Annual Report for 2002, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 623(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2276. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Definitions (RIN: 2700-AC33) received May 13, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

2277. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Offshore Entities Investing in Hedge Funds [Notice 2003-34] received May 13, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2278. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Supervisory Goodwill [Uil No. 597.01-00] received May 13, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2279. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(15) [Notice 2003-35] received May 13, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2280. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Percentage of Completion Timing of Cost Recognition [Uil No. 460.03-09] received May 13, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2281. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's bill entitled, "The Defense Transformation for the 21st Century Act"; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Government Reform, Resources, Education and the Workforce, and Energy and Commerce.

2282. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's March 2003 "Treasury Bulletin," pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 9602(a); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Resources, Education and the Workforce, and Agriculture.

2283. A letter from the Director, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a bill to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy; jointly to the Committees on Government Reform, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Agriculture, Resources, Armed Services, and International Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[The following action occurred on May 16, 2003]

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1904. A bill to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-96, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HUNTER. Committee on Armed Services. H.R. 1588. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-106). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Submitted May 19, 2003]

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1257. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority for qualifying members of the Selected Reserve to have access to home loans guaranteed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to provide for uniformity in fees charged qualifying members of the Selected Reserve and active duty veterans for such home loans (Rept. 108-107). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1683. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2003, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-108). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 239. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1904) to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildlife, to enhance

efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-109). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1529. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code with respect to the dismissal of certain involuntary cases (Rept. No. 108-110). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1954. A bill to revise the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to naturalization through service in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. No. 108-111). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. S. 330. An act to further the protection and recognition of veterans' memorials, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-112, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. Senate Joint Resolution 8. An act expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (Rept. No. 108-113). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1911. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance cooperation and the sharing of resources between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (Rept. 108-115 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. H.R. 1836. A bill to make changes to certain areas of the Federal civil service in order to improve the flexibility and competitiveness of Federal human resources management; with an amendment (Rept. 108-116 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1911 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. S. 330 referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

[Pursuant to the order of the House on May 15, 2003 the following report was filed on May 16, 2003]

Mr. HYDE: Committee on International Relations. H.R. 1950. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for the fiscal years 2004 and 2005, to authorize appropriations under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for security assistance for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, and for other purposes; with an amendment; referred to the Committees on Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary for a period ending not later than June 13, 2003, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of those committees

pursuant to clause 1 of rule X (Rept. No. 108-105, Pt. 1).

[Submitted May 19, 2003]

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1562. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs to recover costs of medical care furnished to veterans and other persons by the Department from third parties that provide health insurance coverage to such veterans and other persons, with amendments; referred to the Committee on Ways and Means for a period ending not later than May 23, 2003, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(s), rule X (Rept. No. 108-114, Pt. 1).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. H.R. 1837. A bill to improve the Federal acquisition workforce and the process for the acquisition of services by the Federal Government, and for other purposes, with an amendment; referred to the Committee on Judiciary for a period ending not later than May 20, 2003, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(k), rule X (Rept. No. 108-117, Pt. 1).

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following action occurred on May 16, 2003]

H.R. 21. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than June 2, 2003.

[Submitted May 19, 2003]

H.R. 1836. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than May 20, 2003. Referral to the Committee on Science extended for a period ending not later than July 25, 2003.

H.R. 1837. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than May 20, 2003.

H.R. 1911. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than May 19, 2003.

S. 330. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than May 19, 2003.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BACHUS (for himself, Mr. OXLEY, and Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon):

H.R. 2143. A bill to prevent the use of certain bank instruments for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. MICA, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. DeFAZIO):

H.R. 2144. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to make technical corrections and improvements relating to aviation security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2145. A bill to condition the minimum-wage-exempt status of organized camps under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 on compliance with certain safety standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2146. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure that certain orders of the National Labor Relations Board are enforced to protect the rights of employees; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2147. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require States, in awarding subgrants under the State charter school grant program, to give priority to charter schools that will provide a racially integrated educational experience; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2148. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the allocation of surface transportation program funds for the purchase of recycled materials; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2149. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to require the use of recycled materials in the construction of Federal-aid highway projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 2150. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits refundable, and to allow taxpayers to obtain short-term student loans by using the future refund of such credits as collateral for the loans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 2151. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand coverage of bone mass measurements under part B of the Medicare Program to all individuals at clinical risk for osteoporosis; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 2152. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend for an additional 5 years the special immigrant religious worker program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GEPHARDT (for himself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. FROST, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. DeLAURO, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island):

H.R. 2153. A bill to review, reform, and terminate unnecessary and inequitable Federal subsidies; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICA:

H.R. 2154. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prevent an employer from placing a nonimmigrant who is an intracompany transferee with another employer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H. Res. 240. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Community Health Center Week to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless

health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. DEUTSCH):

H. Res. 241. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a "Haitian-American Heritage Month"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 23: Mr. WELDON of Florida.

H.R. 49: Mr. GIBBONS.

H.R. 102: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 133: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 151: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 167: Mr. PORTER and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 173: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 199: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.

H.R. 218: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 288: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 296: Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 303: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. DINGELL.

H.R. 401: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 466: Mr. GILCHREST and Mr. BOYD.

H.R. 527: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COLE, Mr. ROSS, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.

H.R. 528: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 568: Mr. CANTOR.

H.R. 594: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia and Ms. VELAZQUEZ.

H.R. 627: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 643: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 713: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 717: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 721: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 731: Mr. BALLANCE and Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 785: Mr. UPTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. WU.

H.R. 786: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H.R. 816: Mrs. TAUSCHER and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 817: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ROSS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 832: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 833: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 857: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 872: Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 876: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. TANNER, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 898: Ms. WATSON, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HUNTER, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 919: Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. BOYD, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 953: Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 965: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 980: Mr. SHAW.

H.R. 997: Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 1068: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H.R. 1115: Mr. BAKER and Mr. FEENEY.

H.R. 1117: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1155: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. QUINN, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H.R. 1157: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. WATT.

H.R. 1168: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 1170: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1179: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. GRAVES.

H.R. 1191: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 1209: Mr. HOLT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1245: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1259: Mr. GIBBONS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 1260: Mr. TERRY and Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 1294: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1348: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1377: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SAXTON, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mrs. NORTHUP.

H.R. 1385: Mr. KIRK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. BELL, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.

H.R. 1418: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1421: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. NEY, and Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 1472: Mr. WAMP, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. ENGLISH.

H.R. 1499: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 1519: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1532: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LEACH, Mr. HOFFEL, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 1536: Mr. SANDLIN.

H.R. 1643: Mr. HOLT, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1652: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MOORE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. WATERS, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. REYES, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1676: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1683: Mr. LEWIS of California, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 1685: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1687: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H.R. 1708: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BAKER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SPRATT.

H.R. 1709: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 1749: Mr. TERRY, Mrs. NORTHUP, Ms. LEE, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1769: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BURR, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Ms. OWENS, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1771: Mr. ISAKSON.

H.R. 1775: Mr. SAXTON.

H.R. 1778: Mr. GOODE and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1787: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 1812: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. OWENS, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. KELLY.

H.R. 1814: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1868: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1894: Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 1901: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1913: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1935: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1944: Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 1954: Mr. LEWIS of California and Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1981: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1999: Ms. LEE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2009: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. LEE, and Mr. MCINNIS.

H.R. 2028: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SHAW, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. ISAKSON.

H.R. 2032: Ms. NORTON, Mr. FORD, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. LANTOS.

H.R. 2038: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 2050: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2095: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 2101: Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. POMEROY, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 2108: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 2119: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. WATT, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 2120: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 2122: Mr. BURR and Mr. HALL.

H.J. Res. 4: Mr. FROST, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. OSBORNE.

H. Con. Res. 78: Mr. BALLANCE and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 93: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H. Con. Res. 116: Mr. HERGER and Mr. PEARCE.

H. Con. Res. 155: Mr. McNULTY and Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri.

H. Con. Res. 164: Mr. TERRY.

H. Res. 38: Mr. HOLT.

H. Res. 136: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. DOOLITTLE.

H. Res. 167: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WOLF, and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 198: Mr. PITTS.

H. Res. 233: Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. FORBES, Mr. AKIN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Ms. HART.

H. Res. 234: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 237: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.